

صباح الامل

Y NOVEMBER 3 1995



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35p

# THE TIMES

No. 65,416

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4 1995

## Tory high-flyers to get dressed down on dressing up



In: the open-necked casual Major look

By ALICE THOMSON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

JUST as Labour MPs have all donned pin-stripe suits to try to acquire the Establishment look, aspiring Conservative candidates have been told to start wearing jeans and jumpers to turn the voters on.

High-flying, right-wing, young Tories will spend this weekend being taught how to discard their blue blazers and grey flannels. Instead they should ruffle their hair, buy a pair of loafers and try to imagine they are "happy, normal people". The weekend, organised by Lord Parkinson, is being held in a hotel near Heathrow and costs £60. The 33 male and seven female candidates are all either looking for seats or have just been selected. They will be drilled in how to avoid making gaffes, what to say on contentious issues such as drugs, prostitution and single mothers, and how to deal with the pressures on family life, the risks of adultery and New Labour.

The high-flyers' first hurdle will be to arrive in something they consider "casual but chic", which will be marked by Mary Spillane, founder of Colour Me Beautiful, which teaches people how to transform their appearance. She will then give a four-hour lesson on "Get real — how to turn the voters on". Men will be taught how to apply foundation and powder to hide bags under their eyes when they are feeling jaded on the campaign trail and how to pluck their eyebrows to look less daunting. They will be told to shave off moustaches and beards, although sideburns are allowed, and they will be given dietary advice on how to keep their weight trim.

Women will be urged to throw away velvet headbands and ruffles, buy properly fitted bras, and try casual trouser suits and satin shirts. But they should not wear leather while they are canvassing. Ms Spillane said yesterday: "The Tories need to recapture the imagination of the British public. At the moment most people would be frightened of having a beer with them in the pub. There is no point in going to a rural constituency in a brand new Barbour and wellies. You need to get some mud on them first. If you want to be an MP for a trendy, multicultural area like Notting Hill Gate, you have to learn how to slouch a bit and wear funnier clothes."

She has convinced the Tory hierarchy that looks are vital, and politics and fashion can mix. "Voters only listen to 7 per cent of what politicians say, the rest is down to looks," Ms Spillane said.



Out: the collar and tie formality of Portillo

## 'Rose knew nothing at all'

# Voice of West confesses from beyond grave

By BILL FROST AND RICHARD DUCE

FREDERICK WEST'S voice echoed from beyond the grave around a hushed courtroom yesterday as his taped confessions to murder were played in the defence of his widow, Rosemary.

In a dispassionate voice, he admitted murdering and dismembering his daughter Heather and other young women, most of whose names he could not remember.

His claims, that he alone was responsible for the killings, were the first time the recorded confessions of a dead witness had been produced in a murder trial.

West's taped interviews with detectives ran to more than 145 recordings totalling 110 hours; only four were played to Winchester Crown Court, taking the entire day.

Mrs West sobbed in the dock as her husband described in his Gloucestershire accent with surgical detail Heather's murder in 1987: "She had a smile and a sort of smirk on her face... I can just remember lunging for her throat and the next minute she had gone blue."

He said he had then used a 12-inch knife with a serrated blade to dismember her. "I cut her legs off... then I cut her head off, then I put her in the

dustbin. Put the lid on and rolled it down the bottom of the garden behind the wendy house, covered it up and left it there."

Heather West's body was later to be buried beneath the patio at 25 Cromwell Street and her remains were the first to be unearthed by police.

West, who also described killing his first wife and her daughter, told police: "The thing I'd like to stress... Rose knew nothing at all." He said that he had had affairs with his other victims and they had all been killed because they threatened to tell his wife.

"Everyone of them did exactly the same thing — 'I love you, I'm pregnant, I'm going to tell Rose and I want you to come and live with me'. That was the problem."

Still in a detached, matter-of-fact tone, West was heard describing how he hatched a plot to prevent his first wife, Rena Costello, taking her seven-year-old daughter away from him.

"I took Rena in the pub and got her absolutely paralytic and then took her out to the country and I strangled her, cut her up and buried her," he said.

Charmaine, who had earlier been given a bottle of lager to

drink, was asleep in the back of the car while her mother was murdered. "There was Charmaine in the back... I thought what am I going to do now? So anyway I strangled her while she was sleeping because there's no other way I could have touched her."

West said he then took the child's body back to his home at 25 Midland Road, Gloucester, and buried her beneath the basement.

But the court was told later that after two months of interviews with police during which he said he had acted alone, Mr West was to change his story. On April 29 last year he said: "I have not told the whole truth. The main reason for this has been from the first day of this inquiry to protect other persons or persons. There's nothing else I wish to say at this time."

Detective Constable Darren Law, one of the officers who interrogated him, said police were convinced that West — who hanged himself in Winslow Green prison on New Year's Day — had told "the after lie" during his interrogation.

The trial continues on Tuesday.

Taped evidence, pages 6-7



THE Duke of Edinburgh stepped into the

French nuclear tests row yesterday by backing a call for an investigation into the Mururoa atoll underground explosions, and saying the rest of the Royal Family agreed with him.

Speaking as the World Wide Fund for Nature's President — he was in Wellington to launch a campaign to protect a rare reptile, the

tuatara (above) — he said of the testing: "There is a suspicion that it's doing damage and if you're concerned with the conservation of nature, you want to make sure whether it is or isn't." His remarks may embarrass John Major, who has backed France's right to test.

Apology to Maoris, page 14

## Yeltsin gives up some power to Prime Minister

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's grip on power slipped further yesterday when he temporarily ceded responsibility for Russian security and foreign policy to Viktor Chernomyrdin, his Prime Minister.

The two men met in the Central Clinical Hospital for the first time since Mr Yeltsin's heart attack last week. In the first television pictures Mr Yeltsin, wearing a tracksuit, looked puffy under the eyes and sounded slurred. "I feel all right," he said in a low, tired voice. "Now my recovery is going to plan and a doctors' conference considers me twice a day. We have to restore me to normal, but there are no more dangers."

Afterwards Mr Chernomyrdin, who is the constitutional heir to the president, said he had temporarily assumed responsibility for the Defence, Interior and Foreign ministries, as well as the Federal Security Service, the successor to the KGB. Normally these ministers report directly to Mr Yeltsin.

The Prime Minister said Mr Yeltsin was "on the mend."

but that it was important not to "overload the president with work". "He must be partially relieved of these duties so that he can recover," he added. "But of course we seek the president's advice on all key questions."

The so-called nuclear "suitcase" with special codes for the launch of nuclear weapons appears to have stayed with Mr Yeltsin. The handover of powers further undermines Mr Yeltsin's hopes of being re-elected president next summer. Correspondingly, it enhances Mr Chernomyrdin's case to be his official successor. The news also fits with unsubstantiated but persistent rumours in Moscow that Mr Yeltsin's heart attack last week was much more serious than the one he suffered in July.

Asked if Mr Yeltsin had personally asked him to take over control of the four "power ministries" Mr Chernomyrdin merely said cryptically: "I could see it in his eyes that Chernomyrdin should work harder"

Double-edged sword, page 12

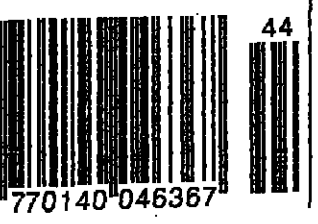
## Manchester wins Games

Manchester will stage the Commonwealth Games in the Queen's golden jubilee year of 2002. It will be the first time the Games have been held in England since 1934. Page 48

## Model denial

Jackie St Clair, a former topless model, has written to The Times to deny reports of a romance with the late Duke of Northumberland. Page 19

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## Barclay twins buy The Scotsman

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

The Scotsman, one of Scotland's oldest and most prestigious newspapers, has been sold to David and Frederick Barclay, the twins who own The European, the London Ritz and the Howard Hotel in London. The price is about £90 million.

Speculation intensified last night that the brothers will transform the impressive multi-storey Scotsman building on Edinburgh's North Bridge into the "Edinburgh Ritz" and transfer the newspaper to a purpose-built plant on the outskirts of the city.

The Barclay brothers, who last month sold their stake in the casino group London Clubs International for £68 million, are buying The Scotsman and its sister publication Scotland on Sunday and the Edinburgh Evening News.

The remaining Scottish titles formerly owned by Thomson Regional Newspa-

pers — the Press & Journal and the Evening Express in Aberdeen — are to be sold to Northcliffe Newspapers, the regional arm of Associated Newspapers, publishers of the Daily Mail for £82 million. This deal is subject to a review by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Associated Newspapers is also believed to be in talks with Caledonian Publishing, owners of The Scotsman's main rival, The Herald. If this deal goes through the long-running war between the Edinburgh-based Scotsman and the Glasgow-based Herald is likely to intensify.

For the intensely private Barclay brothers, The Scotsman adds another strong brand name to their portfolio of businesses, said to be worth £500 million. It also focuses unwelcome publicity on them.

Magnus Linklater, page 2

## INSIDE



Simon Jenkins on Shakespeare and the Prince Page 20



A new lease of life for the panda Page 13  
PLUS  
Baubles, bangles and Brunel Page 8  
The sermon of the year Page 10

## Safety fear as sales of fireworks boom

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

DEMAND for fireworks was expected to rocket today after forecasters predicted a clear and dry bonfire night. But there was a warning from safety campaigners who yesterday lobbied Downing Street for tougher controls.

While emergency services were fearing an increase in the annual toll of injuries, shops reported buoyant sales helped by the prospect of a wind-free, but frosty, weekend.

At Hamleys toy store in London, where some thought nothing of spending more than £2,000 on fireworks, the most popular buys included the Palm Tree Rocket at £27, the Triplex Bomber Rocket (£20) and the Silver Streak Ground Mine (£8), while at the "softer" end of the market the Flower Basket (£20) and Singing Birds (£10) sold well. The store also sold safety goggles, showed a safety video and handed out leaflets.

After two decades of decline, a 25-year high in accidents was recorded last year when two people died and 1,500 were hurt. The fireworks industry had been deregulated in November 1993 as part of a European free trade initiative. It removed the requirement for import licences, which had previously enabled officials to monitor supplies, and has been blamed for the arrival of dangerous fireworks from China — some of them via Holland.

The National Campaign for Fireworks Reform called for new licensing regulations in a letter delivered to Downing Street yesterday. Noel Tobin, campaign director, said: "We are alarmed that after last year, where there was a 50 per cent increase in injuries over 1993, things could get still worse." He launched a five-point safety plan which in Continued on page 3, col 1

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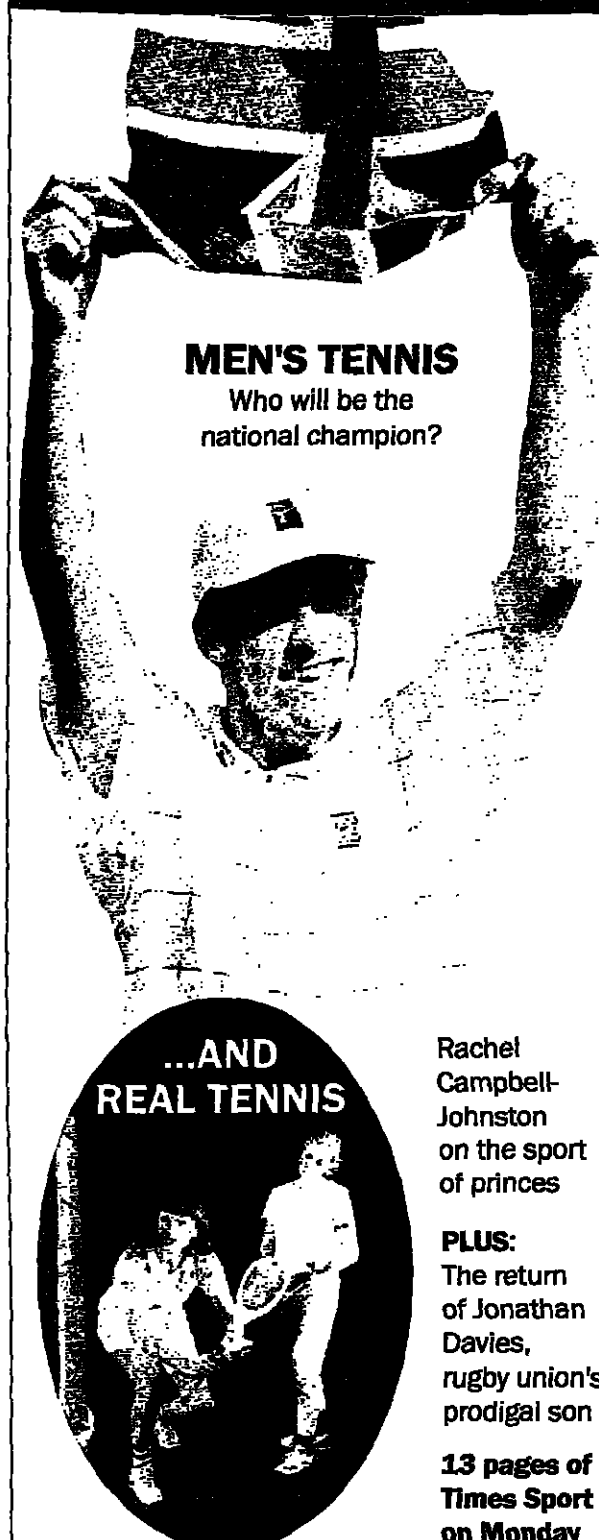
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on the sport  
of princes

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## Angry Tories demand £126,000 a year

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
AND JAMES LANDALE

TORY MPs called for a salary of £126,000 yesterday as they voiced anger at the pay of the ombudsman appointed to police Commons ethics. Patrick Nicholls, a former minister, and Nicholas Winterbottom, the newly-appointed Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, is to be paid £72,000 for a four-day week.

The Tory backbenchers have tabled amendments to next week's debate on disclosure of MPs' earnings, calling for Sir Gordon's pay to be reduced in line with Commons salaries or for MPs to have a corresponding pay rise. Claiming

that MPs work a seven-day week, the Conservatives have called for MPs' £33,189 salary to be almost quadrupled, or for Sir Gordon's to be drastically reduced, either to the same level as that of MPs or to £18,964 to take into account his shorter working week.

Sir Gordon, 67, will monitor the Register of MPs' Interests, offer advice to MPs and provide induction courses in "conduct, propriety and ethics" to new members. He will also be in charge of initial investigations into complaints that MPs have breached a code of conduct.

Patrick Nicholls, MP for Teignbridge, said that the amendments were tabled to draw attention to the "ridiculous" pay being offered to Sir

Gordon rather than to demand a massive salary increase for MPs.

Marjorie Mowlam, Labour's Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said last night: "This is just another example of Conservative insensitivity and arrogance. It is clearly indefensible that an MP should be paid £126,000. The salary we have at present is quite reasonable for the work we do. It will confirm the public's view of the seediness of Conservative politicians."

Mr Nicholls is among the 125 Tory MPs alleged by Labour to have between them 270 posts as consultants and parliamentary advisers.

Earlier, senior Tories offered backbench colleagues a compromise over disclosure of outside earnings to

help avert an embarrassing Commons defeat. The MPs tabled an amendment calling for Labour's proposal that all earnings should be declared to be raised after the next election rather than introduced by March. Their move came as Tony Newton, the leader of the Commons, conceded that even if the Government wins next week's vote, it would be seen to have been helping MPs to protect their own financial interests.

Mr Newton, who chaired the Commons select committee that recommended against public disclosure of earnings related to Parliament, was asked whether next week's vote represented a "no-win situation" for the Tories. He replied: "You may be right. That's just the way of the

world." The Prime Minister's stance against disclosure is threatened by a revolt by at least ten Conservative MPs, enough to overturn the Government's technical majority of eight if there is a full turn-out of MPs. Although officially MPs have been given a free vote, both leaderships have been whipping heavily to ensure victory.

Labour intensified its campaign yesterday in the run-up to Monday's vote, with local election candidates and officials writing to their constituency Tory MPs, urging them to vote against the Government, and if not, challenging them to explain why. The party is targeting Tories in marginal seats who feel most nervous about allegations of sleaze.

## Barclay twins pledge to respect tradition

Proud Scots institution  
again sold to outsiders

BY MAGNUS LINKLATER

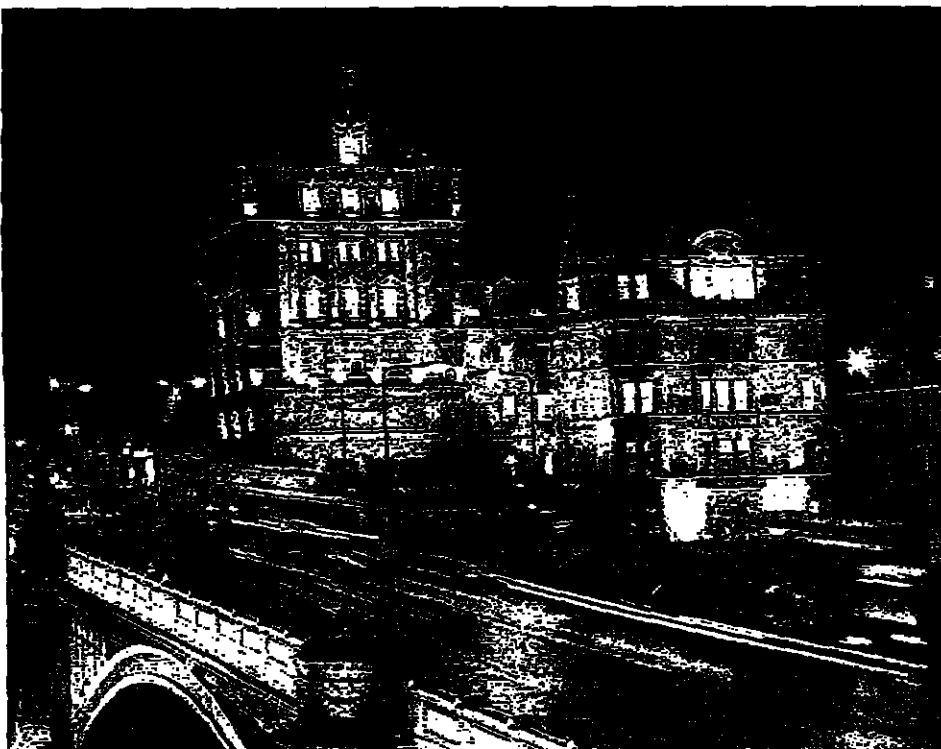
FOR only the second time this century *The Scotsman* has changed hands. Once again a rich and unknown proprietor has stepped in to take over a title that is regarded as a Scottish institution rather than just another newspaper. Last time around, in 1953, it was Roy Thomson, the Canadian millionaire, who saved the paper from bankruptcy. He picked it up for a bargain £393,750, which he achieved by selling off part of the block that came with the building.

The intervention of this brash foreigner was regarded at the time with grave suspicion by the citizens of Edinburgh, but he turned *The Scotsman* into a profitable paper, saw it climb to a circulation of more than 80,000, and went on to launch Scottish Television with enormous success. "There must be something wrong in this country when a fellow like me can make so much money," he remarked candidly.

Things are rather different now. The Barclay brothers are buying a paper which finds itself in the centre of a price-cutting war, defending a circulation that has been hit by the London broadsheet papers, and fighting for advertising revenue against a background of soaring newsprint costs. But it remains profitable.

Scotsman Publications, which includes the *Evening News*, *Scotland on Sunday*, and some free-sheet papers, all based in Edinburgh, made £9 million on a £45 million turnover in its last financial year. It still has a circulation of 80,000 and, with a high proportion of ABC1 readers, has an enviable advertising profile. That may explain the price the Barclays had to pay, believed to be at least £100 million. Even in real terms that is more than Roy Thomson could ever have contemplated.

The Barclay brothers have promised to respect the traditions of the paper. They will have also to decide on the future of a building that is a throwback to a long-vanished newspaper era. Built around the turn of the century, it is a



The headquarters of Scotsman Publications overlooking Waverley station

14-floor Victorian gothic structure, its basement giving onto the railway platform where newspapers were once bundled onto a special train.

Inside, wood-panelled walls bear the names of previous editors embossed in gold, while portraits and statues of venerable proprietors long gone adorn a rabbit warren of offices and corridors. Above the editor's desk, in a room

that looks out over Waverley station to the Scott Monument on Princes Street, one of the finest city views in Scotland, is a gold-engraved slogan: "The Conductors pledge themselves for impartiality, firmness and independence... their first desire is to be honest, the second to be useful... the great requisites for the task are only good sense, courage and industry."

The paper's appeal for two brothers whose purchases have included The Ritz hotel and *The European* newspaper, is probably more than just its profit figures. The Scotsman is one of that select band of newspapers whose name is recognised throughout the world. It punches above its weight as a national rather than a regional paper and offers a similar diet of United Kingdom and international news from a base that is strongly Scottish.

Its masthead proclaims itself as Scotland's National Newspaper — a description hotly disputed by the *The Herald* in Glasgow, which has a considerably higher

circulation — and it has been an outspoken voice for Scottish interests ever since it was founded in 1817, proclaiming: "We have not chosen the name of Scotsman to preserve an invidious distinction, but with the view of rescuing it from the odium of servility."

The Barclay Brothers are buying the paper at a crucial time in its development. With Labour's promise of a Scottish Parliament a key issue in the run-up to the next election, *The Scotsman* is likely to play an important part in the national debate.

But it can no longer expect to occupy its Scottish territory unchallenged. It will need greater investment than its previous owners were prepared to give it, and a new management which can inject the kind of energy and innovation that will enable it to compete with rival newspapers that have shown every sign of giving it a run for its money.

Magnus Linklater was Editor of *The Scotsman* 1988-94

Barclays buy papers, page 1

Ancram holds out  
over IRA arms

The Government rejected demands last night from Sinn Féin to call immediate all-party talks. Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland minister, told the party during talks at Stormont that the IRA would have to begin to decommission its arms before Sinn Féin could join full talks.

Mr Ancram said afterwards that Sinn Féin's proposals, drawn up with the Social Democratic and Labour Party, were unacceptable because they called for the Government to fix a date, rather than a target date, for all-party talks. They also wanted an international disarmament commission to examine all weapons, including the Army's. Martin McGuinness, who led the Sinn Féin delegation, said the Government was squandering the peace process.

## Support for divorce law

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has won support from Roman Catholic bishops for his Divorce Law Reform Bill. The Right Rev Peter Smith, chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Marriage and Family Life, said the bill, which has been attacked by Tory MPs and some members of the Cabinet, had many positive aspects.

## Boxer loses legal fight

A move by Lennox Lewis to stop Frank Bruno defending his World Boxing Council heavyweight crown against Mike Tyson instead of him was halted by Mr Justice Rattee at the High Court yesterday. He ruled that the WBC rules provided for the exclusive jurisdiction of disputes in Dallas, Texas. The fight is scheduled for March 16.

## Missing clerk 'in France'

The police hunt for Gerry Taylor, 45, a town clerk who disappeared at the same time as £100,000 went missing from Whitworth Town Council near Rochdale, Lancashire, has switched to France. Mr Taylor, who claimed to have been in naval intelligence and had recently split from his wife, left clues suggesting he had gone to Moscow.

## Labour identity mix-up

The Labour Party agreed in the High Court to lift the suspension from membership of Gias Choudhury, apologise and pay his costs. The party had suspended him after a television programme on the reselection of Gerald Kaufman as candidate for Manchester Gorton. Yesterday, Labour admitted confusing Mr Choudhury with someone else.

## Journalists sentenced

Two journalists who posed as television producers to dupe clothes stores and computer manufacturers out of thousands of pounds worth of goods were sentenced by Southwark Crown Court, London. Quilliam Potter, 29, and Gillian Hunter, 30, both of Exeter, were put on 18 months' probation with community service of 100 and 60 hours.

## Mackay backs tribute

Courts across the country could fall silent next Saturday as support grows for a two-minute silence 50 years on from the end of the Second World War. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has said that he had no objections to the Royal British Legion's call for the silence to be observed in courts, only a handful of which will be sitting.

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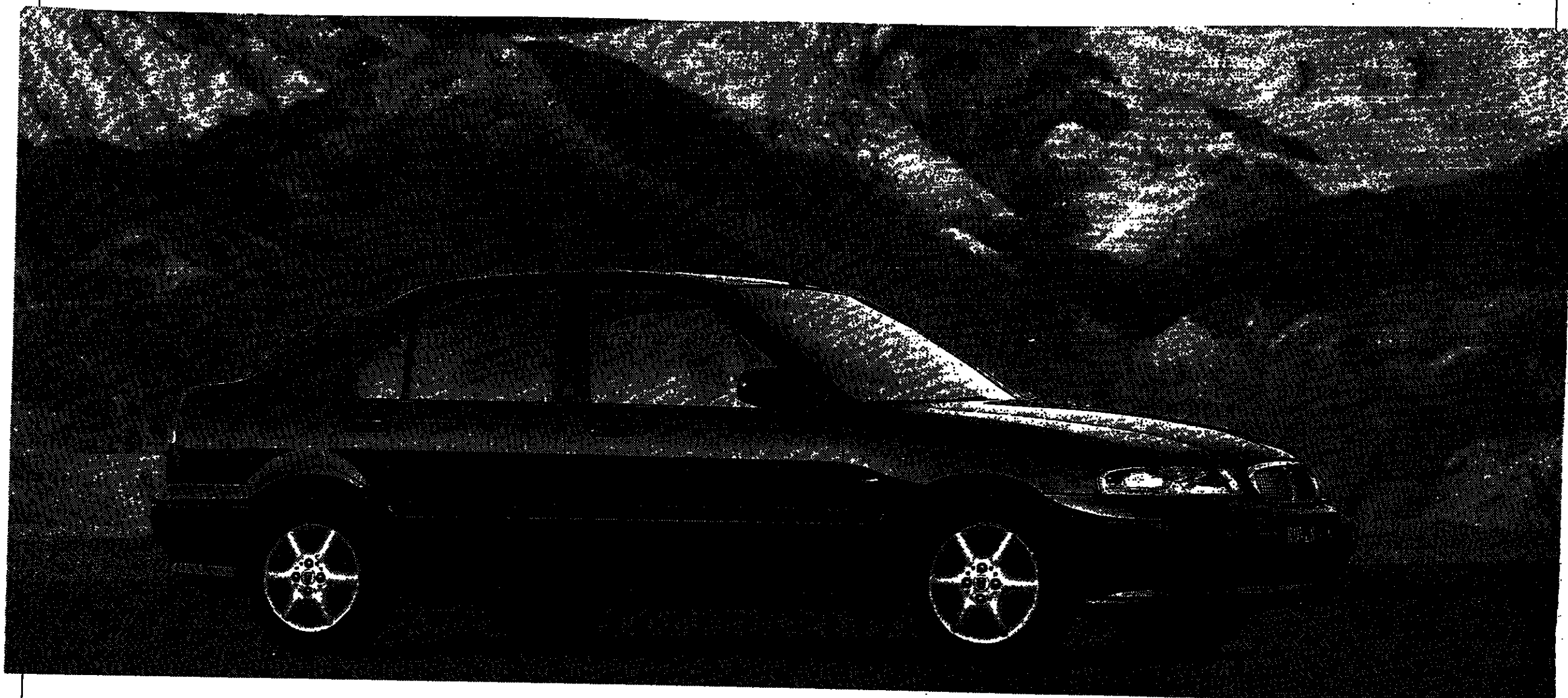
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ABOVE ALL, IT'S A ROVER



'Dukes are perhaps an easy target for the jealous and a thick skin is the best key to survival'

## Ancient title rests uneasily on Northumberland's heir

By PAUL WILKINSON

RALPH PERCY, the new Duke of Northumberland, said yesterday that he is dreading the responsibility that his title brings. In his first public comments since becoming the 12th duke on the death of his brother Harry last Tuesday, he spoke of the sudden change in lifestyle he must now experience.

"As a very private family man, public stature is quite a burden and it is with some trepidation that I take it on," he said. "I cannot say that Harry's death was totally unexpected, but it was still a great shock and because of his high media profile it has plunged me and my family into a world of publicity that is alien to us."

"I face this task with a great asset, my wife Jane. Without her love, loyalty and support it would be twice as hard. I also have a large and united family to help and tell me when I am doing wrong."

The duke, 35, is already familiar with running the huge family estates in North-



The late 11th duke: a romantic, say workers

umberland, having become chairman of its controlling company some time ago. His older brother had taken the more formal role of president as his debilitating ME-type ailment increasingly restricted his activities.

The duke lives in a farmhouse on the Northumberland estate, 15 miles from the family seat at Alnwick Castle. There have been suggestions that he is unwilling

to move there. In his statement the duke showed his distress at press speculation that the death of his brother, 42, at Syon House, the family's west London home, may have been drug-related. He said: "In these dreadful last days, the press has in general been honest and kind about Harry and I, but the unscrupulous will always lie if it suits their purpose and it is upsetting to read articles based on lies. Dukes are perhaps an easy target for the jealous and a thick skin is the best key to survival."

He said that his brother had also found the responsibilities of nobility uncomfortable at times. "Harry did not find it easy to bear the title and the demands that were expected of him and he found escape and excitement in the film world."

"Despite a debilitating illness, Harry retained a great wit and intellect and relentlessly pursued his passion for films and the film world. He was enormously proud of his film *Lost in Africa*."

He described his brother's life as falling into two halves,



The new duke with his son George. "I would like to pass this estate to our heirs as good or better than it is now"

with the early, vital days overtaken by illness. "He excelled at school, as a diligent pupil and an accomplished sportsman. He was a

great all-rounder and was extremely popular. Following Harry through school was hard because of his success, and although I was in his

shadow we were great friends and remained so throughout his life." Speaking of his future, the duke said: "I see my role as curator of an

ancient seat and chairman of a large business. I am responsible for a substantial area of land over which many people work and take their leisure. I

am also directly or indirectly responsible for the employment of several hundred people.

"If Jane and I can achieve one thing in our lives, we would like to pass this estate and heritage to our heirs in as good or better condition than it is now. In doing so we will continue to expand our charity work and help the local community as much as we can."

Workers on the Northumberland estate said in their own tribute that "Duke Harry", as he was known with affection, had left his mark on a distinguished dukedom.

"Determined not to take on the traditional guise of a nobleman, he set his sights on being a modern man... The key to his quest was that he was a romantic, the measure of his success was that he was so engagingly and so endearingly romantic."

Family and close friends will today attend a private funeral at St Michael's Church, Alnwick. A public service will be held later.

Letters, page 21

## Deal agreed to end union sponsorship of Labour MPs

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S ruling National Executive Committee will later this month approve a deal to end direct trade union sponsorship of MPs.

Senior party sources last night said Tony Blair had made clear that Labour had to be seen as "squeaky clean" in the light of the proposals in the Nolan report on standards in public life. Any apparent financial link between the unions and MPs had to end as soon as possible. Unions sponsor 150 MPs at a cost of about £600 each a year. They also pay up to 75 per cent of the MPs' general election expenses.

Although under the present "Hastings Agreement" the money is paid to the MPs' constituency, rather than his pocket, some of the money is used to fund MPs' research assistants or staff in their constituency office. Most unions also expect their sponsored MP to represent their interests in Parliament.

Under the new compromise

deal, thrashed out by a working party of trade unionists and MPs over several months, unions will still pay their money to constituencies of their own choice, but they will no longer be able to sponsor an individual MP. This would prevent MPs being able to use union funds for their Commons research teams, although constituency office staff might still be allowed. "We will have to comply with Nolan," said one party source.

The Labour leadership had hoped that unions would agree to money being pooled so that it could be used to bolster the party in marginal constituencies in the run-up to the general election. However, many unions including the Transport and General Workers' Union, which sponsors Tony Blair, had balked at the idea of losing total control over how their money was spent.

Party sources emphasised last night that unions would have the option of funding constituencies held by Tory MPs with a marginal majority, and it is likely that sponsored MPs will encourage their unions to do so where possible. However, it is expected that some unions will still insist their funds go to the constituencies they have supported hitherto. A party source admitted that it would be entirely up to the unions.

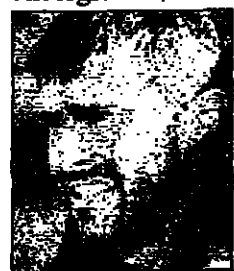
This week's report from the Commons Select Committee on Standards in Public Life on the disclosure of constituencies suggests that had the present system of trade union sponsorship continued, MPs would have to declare any funds paid by unions. However, under the new system, the money paid to constituencies would not have to be registered. Labour is demanding talks with the heads of executive agencies, such as the Prison Service, about the implementation of its policies, in advance of the general election (Nigel Williams writes). John Major confirmed yesterday that he had agreed that the Opposition could begin talks with senior civil servants in January about its plans.

Opposition parties are customarily allowed to meet the permanent secretaries of Whitehall departments towards the end of a Parliament or when a general election had been called. Mr Major has agreed to the talks starting far earlier than usual. But Downing Street said yesterday that it had not yet been decided whether heads of agencies would be included in the talks.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

### Top Gun down!

For five days all I had eaten was a few leaves. Then, as I lay curled up in the undergrowth, I saw



an ant crawl by my head. I reached out, squished it and popped it whole into my mouth...

Captain Scott O'Grady, above, the American fighter pilot shot down in Bosnia last summer, tells the incredible story of his survival and rescue. Only in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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Jury listens to tape of Frederick West describing how he dismembered and buried his daughter

# 'I never intended to hurt her, I just went to shake her'

THE first taped interview with Frederick West heard by the court was conducted on February 25, 1994, the day he was arrested on suspicion of murdering Heather, his 16-year-old daughter. The tape began with a police officer cautioning West that he did not have to say anything but that anything he did say could be used in evidence against him.

"You have been arrested early this morning by my colleague on suspicion of murdering your daughter Heather West," the detective said. "Can you tell me, in your own words, exactly what you know about this?"

In a thick West Country accent, speaking quickly, West told the detective: "What happened was Heather was going to leave home the day before and we stopped her." He had asked her to stay the night to "talk it over". "Heather cried all night because she wanted to leave home. Rose said, 'Let her go. I will go out and draw money out. £600, and give her, and let her go.' I said, 'All right, then.' Rosemary went to get the money... I said, 'Don't hurry back and give me a chance to talk to Heather.'"

West told the interviewing officers, Detective Constables Hazel Savage and Darren Law, that the following morning he and Heather argued while Mrs West was shopping. "She's standing there with her hands on her hips... you know, the big lady business. She said, 'If you don't let me go, I'll give all the kids acid and they'll jump off the church roof and be dead on the floor.' I'd already known that she had given it to Barry [one of the Wests' younger children] because Barry had already jumped off the church roof."

"So she stood there and she had a sort of smile and a smirk on her face. I lunged at her... and grabbed her around the throat... she didn't bring her arms up to stop me and I held her for a minute."

"I can just remember lunging for her throat and the next minute she's gone blue. I looked at her and I was

## HEATHER WEST

shaking from head to foot. I mean, what the heck had gone wrong?"

"I put her on the floor, pumped air into her mouth, to shake her, to say, 'Take that stupid smirk off your face.' I was going to smack her across the face but some years before me and Rose had a word or two, I smacked her

"I never intended to hurt her. I mean, I just went to grab her, to shake her, to say, 'Take that stupid smirk off your face.' I was going to smack her across the face but some years before me and Rose had a word or two, I smacked her



Heather West: remains found beneath patio

across the face and dislocated her jaw.

"Heather was just flat out and I thought I've got to do something... I was going to put her in the Wendy house. I tried to get her in the dustbin. I couldn't get her in. At that time we used to have one of those big ice saws for cutting big blocks of ice. So I cut her legs off with that, and I'm telling you I have lived that a million times since."

"Then I cut her head off, then I put her in the bin and put the lid on, rolled it down to the bottom of the garden behind the Wendy house, covered it up and left it there. Then Rose must have come

back... and she said, 'Did you persuade Heather to stay?' I said she had decided to go and that was it. I sent Rose out... with the current bloke to stay with him for the night. Then I went down and I dug this hole and buried [Heather] down behind the fence."

Later West laid a patio over the grave, he told detectives. During the interviews he gave a precise location for his daughter's body, knowing that excavations were about to begin at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester. Asked by Ms Savage what sort of grave the police should be looking for, he said: "Just a hole in the ground." Ms Savage: "And what's going to be in this hole in the ground?" West: "Heather." Ms Savage: "In how many pieces?" West: "Two legs and a head and a body."

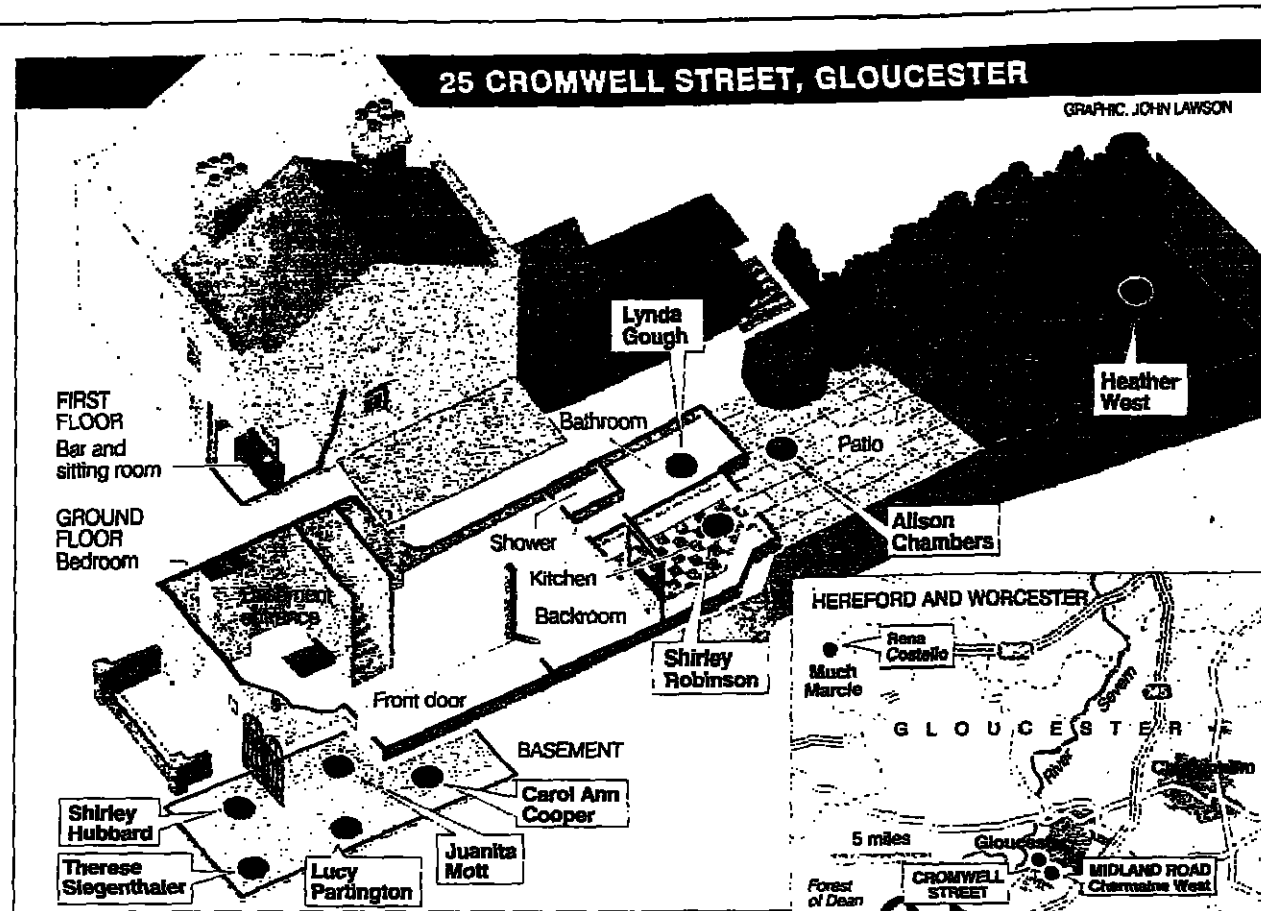
He is asked about the weapon he used to dismember his daughter's body. "It would be probably just over a foot in length and it's got big teeth blades on the one side. It's reasonably rigid, it has got to cut ice."

West was asked if his clothing had become bloodstained. "No, not to my knowledge... she was quite cold, really cold, before I decided what to do with her."

"I took her in the downstairs bathroom and put cold water flannels on her face. That is something I've had to live with for eight years. It's not easy, because I loved Heather and that's why I was trying to persuade her not to go."

Ms Savage said: "And what have you told Rose about Heather's whereabouts ever since?" West: "That she'd left home... gone down to Brighton or Bournemouth... the thing I'd like to stress... Rose knew nothing at all. Rose used to say, 'Christ, I wish we'd try and get in contact and find out where Heather is. Although they didn't get on, she still loved her.'"

Rosemary West, 41, has denied murdering nine girls and a young woman, including Heather. The trial continues on Monday.



## Lovers were killed when they threatened to tell Rosemary

WEST identified sites in the basement of Cromwell Street where he said the remains of young women could be found. The only identities he could remember were those of Lucy Partington and Lynda Gough. "There's so many... all these girls I've had affairs with and that's why they ended up this way because they threatened to tell Rose."

"Cos what happened — all these girls did exactly the same thing. I was made quite clear that I was married to Rose and I don't want nothing to do with them, nothing serious — it was just 'thank you mam, finished.'"

"And every one of them did exactly the same thing... I love you, I'm pregnant. I'm going to tell Rose. I want you to come and live with me and that was a problem."

Asked how many of the girls were pregnant, he said he did not know. West agreed it would not be difficult for police to reach the remains of Lynda Gough, who, he said, was buried in what had been

a car-repair pit beneath a garage now converted into a bathroom. Her body was "quite deep", he said. No other bodies were in the pit, he said.

There were also no other bodies beneath the ground floor of the house, he said. "The reason... was because they would have been too close to Rose," he told police.

Other bodies were under the cellar, he said, explaining how he had altered the access to the cellar over the years. The first spot beneath the cellar, where he indicated that a body would be found, had been used for "a girl from Newent [a small town near Gloucester]", he said.

After being told that the girls' bodies were being numbered, he said "Body One is right in the fireplace of the basement. As you go down the stairs there's a fireplace straight in front of you."

He said of the victim: "She and I had an affair. I think

she was Dutch or something. I had an affair with her. She was having a holiday over here, and then she threatened to tell Rose."

He could not remember the girls' names, West told the officers. "I have no idea what their names are. I knew the names at the time, but I have no idea now... they are all around the 17 to 20 mark."

West was also asked: "Is there anything you want to say about what we have talked about so far, with regard to other offences?" West replied: "No, there is no other offences. The officer asked him about other bodies. West replied: "No, there ain't any."

West was then quizzed about a young girl in Newent whom he was said to have raped twice. Again he angrily denied the allegation. He claimed that they had gone together for two years.

The interviewing officer suggested that he found it

difficult to cope with allegations of rape. West replied: "I never raped anybody." The officer pointed out that he killed people. West told the interviewer: "You even get killing wrong, you are trying to make out I went out blatantly killing people."

The officer suggested that some of the victims had gone through hell. West replied: "Not all went through hell... enjoyment turned to disaster, or most of it anyway."

And he admitted: "It is your job to investigate this thing and not to believe what I say altogether." As the fourth tape continued, West indicated his concern at the number of statements the police were collecting about him. A detective said that many were needed to establish facts, such as who was living at 25 Cromwell Street during the time of the deaths.

When West again referred to the large number of statements he was aware of, Detective Constable Hazel Savage told him: "You ain't seen nothing yet."

## Murders started with Rena and child of seven

FIRST WIFE

WEST told police that his killings had begun with the murders of his first wife Rena Costello and his stepdaughter Charmaine. West was with Howard Ogden, his solicitor, Scott Canavan, the solicitor's clerk, and an "appropriate adult", Janet Leach, when he was interviewed again, by Detective Constables Darren Law and Hazel Savage.

Constable Savage asked: "What was the very first body?" West replied quietly: "That was Rena." It happened, he said, after Rena came to collect Charmaine. "That is exactly true. My main problem was Rose in finding out what was going on."

Rena had threatened Rosemary, and Rena had gone round to 25 Midland Road to collect Charmaine, West said. He had taken them to a pub and ensured that his wife became "absolutely paralytic". Charmaine, aged seven at the time, had been given a bottle of lager to drink so she would fall asleep.

Having made Rena Costello drunk, West then drove to an isolated field. "I took her out to Dymock in the country and I strangled her and buried her. 'Charmaine... was sound asleep and I'd forgotten all about her. I strangled Rena, dug the hole, cut her up and buried her and then I went back to the van and there was Charmaine in the back."

"So anyway, I strangled her while she was sleeping 'cos there's no way I could have touched her any other way. I wrapped her up in the back and drove back to 25 Midland Road. There was a garage up the side... and you could go out of the back into another little workshop and underneath the house into the basement. And I put her in there. Then I buried her there."

West was reminded that he had seemed to suggest that Charmaine was the only victim who was not mutilated. He said: "She was young, she was seven, she was pure."

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## Preacher of the Year: sermon that won the title with an exposition of Gospel beatitude

## It's purity of heart, Jim, but not as we know it

You won't know Mrs Wentworth. Or at least not the Mrs Wentworth I'm talking about. But her name cropped up in conversation as I was preparing for this sermon. You see, I didn't just want to look up what St Augustine, John Wesley and Sir Cliff Richard have had to say about my text — "How blest are those whose hearts are pure: they shall see God." I wanted to know what your average Tom, Dick and Mary make of it. So I asked them — just one deceptively simple question. "What does purity of heart mean to you?"

Their answers were mostly predictable. "It means unselfishness." "It means not being hypocritical." "It means always thinking good things." But one response was unexpected. "What does purity of heart mean to you?" I asked this particular chap. And quick as a flash he replied: "Mrs Wentworth!" Now, knowing Mrs Wentworth as I do — an elderly woman of transparent goodness — I knew at once what that man meant. And all of a sudden a somewhat hazy text shifted, at least a little bit, into focus. And purity of heart had a familiar face.

I call it a hazy text because, in the dim and distant past, the original Hebrew concept of purity was inextricably linked with the meticulous observance of religion. But it isn't for us.

Hence the need for what I call a "Mr Spock approach" to this beatitude. Mr Spock, you might remember, was that amiable half-human, half-alien on Captain Kirk's Starship Enterprise. Recalling one of his catchphrases, I can imagine him pondering this text and concluding: "It's purity

Jim, but not as we know it!" Insofar as we do know it, purity of heart does include all those things that people trotted out in response to my question — being unselfish, not being hypocritical, thinking good thoughts and that almost indefinable something extra the Mrs Wentworths of this world possess.

Many of us will be familiar with John Keble's sung version of this beatitude: "Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God. The secret of the Lord is theirs..." The Mrs Wentworths do seem to have been let into a sort of secret. It's the secret of how to wear your successes without arrogance and to bear your failures without resentment: the secret of how to admire without envy, reproach without malice, care without condescension and love without lustiness. And, most remarkable of all, it is a secret that enables at least some of the pure in heart to pray without pretence, what *The Book of Common Prayer* describes as neither "dissembling nor cloaking our manifold sins and wickedness".

I have a feeling that the secret of the pure in heart is precisely their refusal — almost their inability — to dissemble and cloak, both their strengths and their weaknesses, so they can accept deserved praise and take justified criticism with equal grace. And when they say "I'm sorry," be it to God or their neighbour, they mean just that and only that. Not, "I'm sorry, but

I've been under a lot of pressure at work, and we're having trouble at home with our 14-year-old, and to cap it all the dog had to be put down last week, and you know how it is when it all gets on top of you, you just blow your top." No, none of that dissembling and cloaking, just "I'm sorry".

I have deliberately highlighted that example because it is important to realise that even the pure in heart have reason to say "sorry". Mrs Wentworth isn't perfect. Transparently good she may be, but you can see her faults as well. And her purity of heart isn't obvious to her. For purity of heart is like humility — thinking that you've got it is a sure sign that you haven't. Not even the saints, those Gary Lineckers of the Faith whom we particularly recall today, would have claimed purity of heart, though doubtless other people saw it in them.

But what shall the pure in heart themselves see? The beatitude is alarmingly clear on that. They shall see God. I say "alarmingly clear" because, certainly in Old Testament times, seeing God was, at best, a mixed blessing. On the one hand the writer of Psalm 42 longed for such a vision: "When shall I come before the presence of God?" But, on the other hand, when a heavenly being appeared to Minoah and his wife prior to the birth of their son Samson,

Minoah — like Private Frazer in *Dad's Army* — exclaimed: "We're all doomed to die because we've seen God!" Fortunately, Mrs Minoah — characteristically less prone to panic — replied: "Don't be daft. If God had us down for the chop, he wouldn't have accepted our burnt offering, would he?" You can just imagine the ensuing snippet of domestic conversation. "Hey, that's right. I never thought of that." "No, well, that's your trouble dear, isn't it? You don't think."

Inasmuch as Minoah did think, he accepted the popular belief that to see God spelled trouble, where "being still in the presence of the Lord", as we sing in Psalm 42, was the rigid calm of the petrified. For, like Mr Spock's interpretation of purity, "seeing God" was a seeing — but not as we know it. It was a vision of such overwhelming holiness that it all but obliterated the viewer. So what the Psalmist desired, most people in those days dreaded. But, even nowadays, we can imbue the word "see" with a sense of dread. There is a world of difference in feeling between lovers standing on the platform, sighing a fond "I'll see you next week", and the head teacher leaving the unruly pupil to stew outside the door with a stern, "I'll see you in a minute". A blessing, albeit put off for a week, is preferable to a threat about to be carried out.

And there is surely something of a blessing deferred in this particular beatitude. For people of varying religious traditions, seeing God has always been regarded as the end of our searching. The ultimate reward. It is the spiritual equivalent of winning the jackpot.



The Rev Barry Overend with the sculpture that he received as a prize, as well as a cheque for £1,000

though this time that finger pointing down through the cloud that we've all seen on the lottery adverts is more of a hand, beckoning. And the caption suggesting "It could be you" has become the proclamation "It shall be you".

"What me? Shall I see God? I, the unkind, the ungrateful," as George Herbert put it in seeming disbelief in a famous poem. But that poem is called *Love bade me welcome*. And our good fortune in receiving such a welcome is symbolised not by the crossed fingers of the lottery logo, but by the crossed arms of the Calvary

tree. For it is primarily, though not solely, in the living, dying and Christians would claim, rising of Christ that the pure in heart catch a glimpse of that God whom they are promised full sight of later.

It is a promise to all those whose hearts, like that of George Herbert, are at least pure enough to perceive their own unkindness and ingratitude. For purity of heart can spring as much from a sense of sin as from sanctity. That, thank God, is what puts it in reach of us all. St Peter was never more pure in heart than in that moment when he knew himself to be

defiled by a sin that hitherto he could never have imagined himself committing. And when that cock crowed for a second time, and the Lord turned and looked at Peter, there was no cloaking and dissembling in his heart. The weeping was indeed bitter. But the remorse was pure.

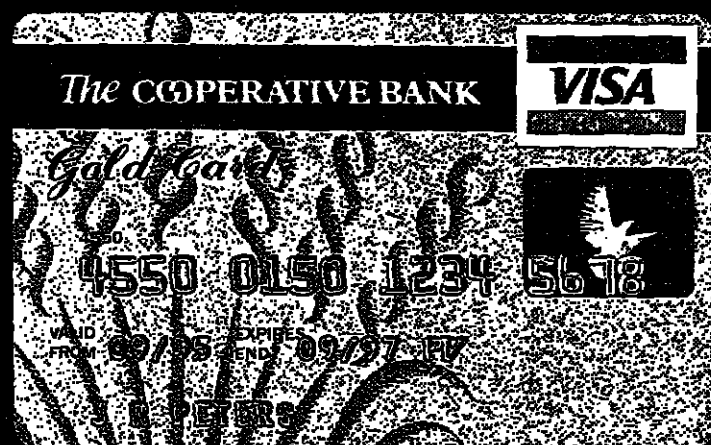
We all have it in us to be pure in heart, if only in our remorse at our impurity. Such was the purity of heart of that tax collector, praying at the back of the temple, who frankly acknowledged his sins before God — a confession that Jesus contrasted so favourably with the front-pew Pharisee's real, but all too self-righteousness.

We are told that the tax collector would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven. That is because he was peering into the darkness of his own interior, whereas the Pharisee basked only in the brightness of his external self. But seeing ourselves in a shining light obscures, not illuminates, the vision of God. The pure in heart don't shine. They only reflect. They reflect the glory of that God whom one day they shall see.

But you would have a hard job trying to convince Mrs Wentworth of that. For she doesn't believe in God. I once asked her: "Why not?" Her reply was simple: "Because I've never seen him." I wasn't going to, but just in case I was, she added quickly: "And don't say, 'One day you will.' " "No," I said, "but if you do, I'll know why."

□ The Rev Barry Overend is vicar of St Chad's, Headingley, Leeds, and is winner of The Times College of Preachers Preacher of the Year Award 1995

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## Couple lose appeal over blighted bungalow

A RETIRED colonel lost his latest battle yesterday to force the Department of Transport to buy his home, which has halved in value because of a proposed bypass.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Owen, 65, and his wife Barbara, 64, have fought a two-year campaign against the department's decision in December 1994 not to buy their 1950s retirement bungalow overlooking the River Churn near Baunton, Gloucestershire.

In June last year the Court of Appeal accepted that the house, which the couple spent £100,000 renovating, would be substantially devalued by the planned Cirencester bypass and that their enjoyment of the property would be seriously affected. They ordered the department to reconsider but it ignored the ruling on the basis that the Owens knew about the scheme far enough in advance to decide whether to buy the house.

Yesterday in the High Court Mr Justice Popplewell upheld the Government's conclusion. The judge said: "The courts must refrain from seeking to usurp the functions of the executive. I find no perversity in the Secretary of State's decision."

Valuers estimate that the scheme will halve the £300,000 value of the Owens's home at The White Ways, Cirencester.

## Anglicans join sex channel shares sell-off

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England has sold its £3.6 million investment in BSkyB in protest at the satellite station's new soft-porn channel, Playboy TV.

The Church Commissioners said yesterday that the decision had been taken because of the Church's "broad concerns for the maintenance of standards of human dignity and its belief that pornography 'degrades and exploits human beings'".

The Methodist Church announced earlier this week that it was selling its £846,000 holding in BSkyB because of the Playboy channel.

Tony Hardy, the Church Commissioners' stock exchange investments manager, said: "This action has been taken to give a clear signal that the Church of England does not wish its investment income to benefit through direct investment in companies directly marketing pornography."


The Church was concerned about the size of the channel's potential family audience: more than four million households receive BSkyB and about 25 per cent of children live in homes with cable or satellite television. The commissioners also objected to Playboy TV's marketing campaign, including a poster saying "Morgasms" in big gold

letters. The Church's BSkyB shares, bought for about £2.56 each 11 months ago, were sold this week at about £3.73, earning a profit of more than £1 million in less than a year. More than £2 million of the shares were held by the Church Commissioners; the rest were held by the Central Board of Finance, which invests on behalf of parishes and dioceses.


The shares were a small proportion of the Church's total investments of nearly £2 billion. Its ethical investment policy bans direct holdings in companies whose main business is in armaments, gambling, alcohol, tobacco and newspapers.

Playboy TV was set up by Playboy Enterprises, the broadcasting company Flextech and BSkyB — in which News International, parent company of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake. The channel began broadcasting what it calls "quality erotic programming" at midnight on Wednesday. Its signal is encrypted and is available only to subscribers.

BSkyB said: "It is regrettable that any shareholder would take this action but it is their prerogative. The channel is completely legal and has been cleared for broadcast by the appropriate authorities."



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## Extra powers are double-edged sword for Russian Prime Minister



Chernomyrdin: guarded

## Communist who turned capitalist

HAD Viktor Chernomyrdin, 57, the Russian Prime Minister, been born the other side of the Iron Curtain he might now be heading a privatised utility (Oliver August writes).

He started in the Russian gas industry after a stint in the Red Army in the late 1950s and was a chief engineer in the Orenburg gas plant, becoming an adviser to the Central Committee in 1978.

From there the guarded but ambitious Mr Chernomyrdin made the crossover to politics.

During the last seven years of Soviet rule he was First Deputy and then Minister of Gas.

Despite his being a card-carrying Communist since 1961, he was one of the first Russians to take an active part in the transition to capitalism.

He became Deputy Prime Minister in 1992 and Prime Minister in 1993.

## Yeltsin 'heir' faces threat from aides in Kremlin

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

THE extra powers given to Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, by President Yeltsin yesterday are a double-edged sword, which make him both more powerful and more vulnerable in the run-up to parliamentary elections.

By taking charge of the four "power ministries" responsible for Russia's security and foreign policy, Mr Chernomyrdin has taken one step nearer to being acting head of state and now stands a much greater chance of being anointed Mr Yeltsin's heir for the presidential elections next summer. However the need for his party, Our Home is Russia, to perform strongly in the parliamentary elections on December 17, is now even more important.

Mr Chernomyrdin is engaged in a discreet war with a group in Mr Yeltsin's administration, clustered around Aleksandr Korzhakov, the President's security chief, who stand to lose everything if Mr

Yeltsin steps down and want to see him re-elected at all costs. That means that they may try to damage Mr Chernomyrdin by damaging his party. The aides around Yeltsin will try to undermine Chernomyrdin. Through orders from the top, through TV, Michael McFaul, a political analyst with the Carnegie Centre in Moscow, said.

The Prime Minister also has the headache of combining his extra responsibilities with the demands of galvanising Our Home is Russia's electoral campaign, which has started poorly. Opinion polls show that it may collect less than 10 per cent of the vote, well behind the front-runner, the Communist Party.

The nationalist movement Derzhava (Great Power), led by Aleksandr Rutskoi, the former Vice President, was re-admitted to the election campaign yesterday when the supreme court overturned a ban on registration imposed by the Central Electoral Com-



President Yeltsin during his meeting with Mr Chernomyrdin in hospital yesterday

mission. The verdict may result in Derzhava splitting the nationalist vote at the cost of other opposition parties.

The court postponed the case of the powerful liberal party Yabloko, led by Grigori Yavlinsky, a reform economist, until today. Yabloko was also banned from registering for the elections for alleged

procedural reasons. The party's leaders say the decision was politically inspired.

Mr Yavlinsky said yesterday that the ban on his party was part of a concerted attempt to undermine him before the presidential elections next summer for which he is virtually undisputed as the reformers' candidate. "We are

defending the very possibility of a peaceful change of power in Russia," he said.

His comments echo speculation that a hardline Kremlin faction is planning to have the parliamentary elections postponed or cancelled, because of Mr Yeltsin's illness.

Leading article, page 21

## 'White Fox' heads for narrow win in Georgian poll

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN TBILISI

FOR a few moments yesterday, Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, could afford to set aside his exhausting re-election campaign and indulge in a nostalgic bout of international diplomacy.

Attending a ceremony in his heavily guarded office to accept the credentials of Stephen Nash, the new British Ambassador to Tbilisi, the former Soviet Foreign Minister shut out the notorious, and often bloody, affairs of his young nation state. Dressed in a double-breasted navy blue suit and holding up a glass of Georgian white wine, the man who helped to bring about the end of the Cold War indulged in diplomatic small-talk about John Major and the City.

Today, however, on the eve of presidential and parliamentary elections, the white-haired former communist will make a final appeal to the electorate, which is expected to vote him back.

"Shevardnadze will win, but the campaign will be tense right to the end," said Alexander Rondeli, the head of international relations at Georgia's state university. "The polls show he is still leading, but the opposition is looking strong in certain regions. Nothing should be taken for granted."

That the Georgian leader, dubbed the "White Fox" by his people, is ahead in the polls is no small achievement for a head of state who has presided over a civil war, two bloody separatist conflicts and the virtual collapse of the economy, all in a space of four turbulent years. If Georgians needed reminding about the trials they have endured, then Jumber Patashvili, the repub-

lic's former communist chief and today Mr Shevardnadze's main challenger for the presidency, is there to make sure they remember.

"This administration is bankrupt," said the tough former Soviet boss, who looked visibly shaken after a group of his supporters was dispersed by mysterious gunfire outside the capital yesterday. "They promise privatisation but then they sell off healthcare. They promise to stabilise the economy, but the result is we are all paupers. They promise free elections, and then intimidate us when we campaign."

His message has hit home among older Georgians, who remember the time when this Caucasus Republic enjoyed a privileged status. Today the country is one of the poorest with pensioners and the unemployed forced to scrape by on meagre state handouts.

Nevertheless, a majority still regard Mr Shevardnadze as the most honest leader and the man best placed to navigate the country out of its troubles. A straw poll taken in Tbilisi's main market, which attracts traders from across the country, showed widespread support for the veteran leader.

"You can say what you like about him," said Deneri Giunashvili, a fruit seller. "But he has restored law and order and chased out the criminals. The economy is coming right finally."

Another old Tbilisi resident said: "Without Shevardnadze in power this country would slip back into conflict and chaos. I will not only be voting for him but praying that he survives in office."

## Share scandal hits campaign

BY ROGER BOYES

INSIDER share dealing by a network of former Communists, dubbed the Red Spiders' Web, yesterday unhinged the election campaign of Aleksander Kwasniewski, President Walesa's main rival.

First round voting in the presidential election is tomorrow, with Mr Kwasniewski, a former Communist minister, and Mr Walesa leading the field of 13 candidates. If nobody wins a clear 50 per cent of votes, there will be a run-off in two weeks between the two who poll the most votes.

But the share scandal may well have revived the chances of Jacek Kuron, a former dissident who is also a candidate. Opinion polls give him only about 8 per cent of the vote compared to 32 per cent for Mr Kwasniewski and 29 per cent for Mr Walesa, but he regularly comes out top of popularity and confidence polls.

Many voters who lean to the Left may well switch their votes from Mr Kwasniewski



Kwasniewski: comes out top in opinion polls

to Mr Kuron as a result of the financial affair.

Press reports said Mr Kwasniewski and other former Communists have been buying shares in Polska, Poland's fourth largest insurance company, at preferential rates before a stock exchange flotation.

Roger Boyes is the author of *The Naked President: A Life of Lech Walesa* (Secker).

## Human rights in Estonia criticised

Geneva: The United Nations Human Rights Commission yesterday criticised Estonia for its treatment of ethnic Russians, who make up about 30 per cent of the Baltic state's population. The commission examined the issue during its three-week autumn session.

The panel said that the ethnic Russians were prevented from becoming Estonian citizens by a mass of legal obstacles and the demand that they speak the language, which is notoriously difficult to learn. (AFP)

Government backed: President Meri, approved the new Government of Tiit Vähi, the Prime Minister, saying the state now needed political unity to fight forces in Russia which want to restore the old Soviet Union. (Reuters)

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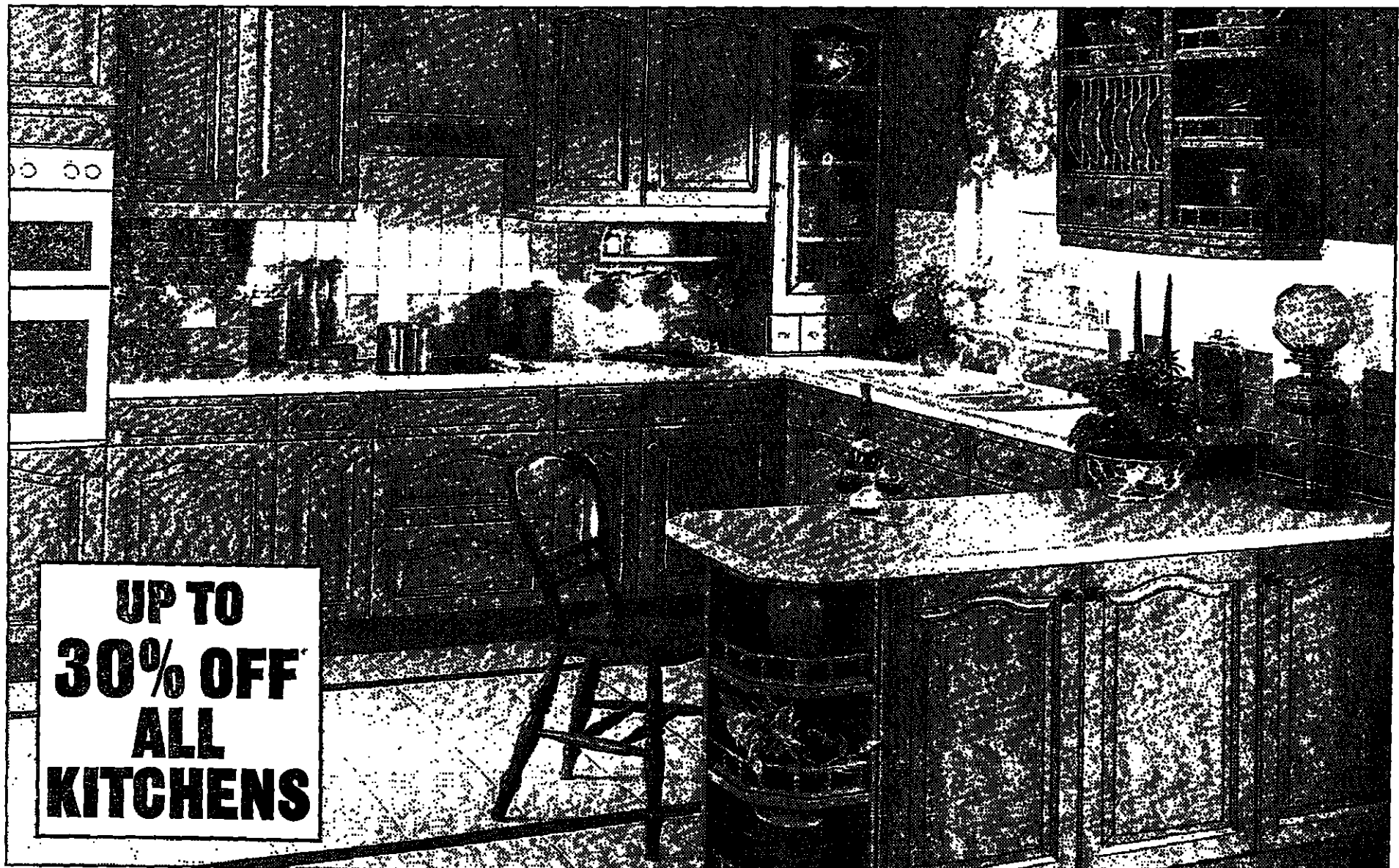


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## Queen signs £70m apology to Maoris

FROM MICHAEL MUNRO  
IN WELLINGTON



The Queen gives her assent to the Bill

THE QUEEN yesterday cleared the way for a compensation package to dispossessed Maori tribes when she signed legislation containing a Crown apology for the actions of British colonists in New Zealand 132 years ago.

In a brief, emotion-charged ceremony at Government House in Wellington, the Queen gave the Royal assent to the Waikato Tainui Raupatu Claims Settlement Bill that gives effect to a \$NZ170 million (£70 million) package for the Tainui federation of tribes in the fertile Waikato region, south of Auckland.

Maori women sang a prayer of welcome to the Queen and she was presented with a greenstone mere (warrior's club) before the ceremony. The Queen did not speak as she

formalised the settlement by signing three copies of the legislation.

Under the new law, 38,000 acres of land will be returned to the tribes over five years — about a third of what was confiscated — and the tribes will be given a £26 million land purchase fund.

A government spokesman said that the first instalment of "several million dollars" would be paid shortly. Much of the land being returned to the Maori tribes was used for defence installations, power stations and mines.

Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, described the ceremony as a great occasion and said he was proud to be associated with it. The apology was deserved, he added, given the history of the Tainui tribes.

The Queen's signature had huge symbolic importance for Maoris because she rarely gives Royal assent

to New Zealand Bills in person. The Prime Minister saw the symbolism as more important than the signing: "It signals the resolution of a long-standing grievance and, as it were, putting forward the chance of a much better future. I felt a great sense of history in the room."

The 400-word apology acknowledges that the Crown's representatives acted unjustly in ordering an invasion of the Waikato in 1863 and in labelling the Maoris as rebels. The Crown expresses its "profound regret and apologies unreservedly" for the loss of lives and the confiscation of property.

About one million acres of Tainui land were seized to punish Maoris and secure a farming hinterland for Auckland after the 1863-64 Waikato War during which thousands of Imperial troops and local militia fought to impose British sovereignty.

Waea Murray, a Tainui elder, said yesterday there was a huge sense of achievement among his people: "We see this as the end of an old era and the beginning of a new."

Buckingham Palace and government spokesmen have emphasised, however, that yesterday's apology was not a personal one by the Queen.

Hare Puke, the chairman of the Tainui Trust Board, said the tribes did not expect one. "We believe that she is a gracious lady and she is following the process of the monarchy, and we are grateful at this time that she has given her stamp of dignity," he told New Zealand radio.

The Tainui claim is just one of hundreds that have been lodged with the Wellington Government by Maori tribes seeking redress for land and other grievances.

Leading article, page 21

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## A starry wink from space 7,000 years ago

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
IN WASHINGTON

THE Hubble Space Telescope has taken unprecedented snapshots of newborn stars peering out of immense gas clouds some 7,000 light years from Earth.

The photographs of the Eagle Nebula, taken by the orbiting telescope on April 1, were shown to reporters by Jeff Hester, who said his team from Arizona State University was amazed at their findings. The snapshots show three dark towers of gas dimly lit by some 50 stars caught in the act of twinkling on.

The birth of the stars in the nebula also known as M16 took place some 7,000 years ago, since distance in light years is equivalent to calendar years. The stars formed within dense fingers of hydrogen extending from the towers, which scientists have fancifully dubbed EGGs, for evaporating gaseous globules. The gas is so compressed that it collapses under its own weight, giving rise to the star-making nuclear fusion process. The stars then grow in size as they absorb increasing amounts of surrounding gas.

The Hubble project is a joint programme of Nasa and the European Space Agency.



Stars are hatched from three interstellar gas pockets at the end of vast tubes called "elephant trunks"

## Tamil Tigers flee Jaffna as dream of homeland fades

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

THE Tamil Tigers, besieged by the Sri Lankan Army, announced last night that they were quitting Jaffna. Soon it will be a ghost town.

Its people are moving away from the advancing troops towards a rural no man's land to the east, where there is nowhere to sleep except on the ground. The population, until recently 200,000, is down to a quarter of that.

The old and sick are staying on. So, probably, is a nucleus of Tigers to ensure that the armed forces pay heavily for their victory. The rebels said they would move east to another area on the Jaffna peninsula, abandoning the shantertown that has been the centre of their operations for five years.

With their unofficial inde-

pendent state of Eelam in ruins, the rebels will revert to doing what made them famous: hit-and-run guerrilla warfare. They are pressing people into uniform because of dwindling recruitment, a sign of demoralisation and a growing conviction among ordinary Tamils in Jaffna that hopes of establishing a sustainable homeland are dead.

Many Tamils are being rounded up for questioning in Colombo and elsewhere in the search for Tigers who might be on bombing missions to avenge the loss of their de facto homeland. However, old patterns of torture, beatings and extra-judicial killings are not being repeated. Police and troops have been warned not to sully military victories with human rights abuses.

The Government says people should return home once troops have secured the area. While Colombo draws unaccustomed international approval for its military conduct, the Tigers have lost much of their international goodwill. Canada, one of their most important fund-raising centres, long ago declared them a terrorist organisation.

## Charity buys slaves' freedom in Sudan

By OLIVER AUGUST

A BRITISH charity working in Sudan is buying back Christian slaves kidnapped by Arab militias and forced to become Muslims.

A team from Christian Solidarity International (CSI) went to Sudan and spent £10,000 to free 22 children and young women. The charity agreed with local leaders in Nyamell, southern Sudan, to buy five cows for every slave and use these as payment.

Baroness Caroline Cox, a member of the CSI team, said: "I just couldn't leave these people behind knowing we could have helped them."

Tens of thousands of black Christian Sudanese in the south of the country have been abducted by gangs of soldiers, who sell them as slaves to Muslims in the north. Accord-

ing to Baroness Cox, the enslaved children and young women are forced to do house and agricultural work as well as provide sexual services. They are generally given Muslim names and forced to observe Islamic rituals.

The boys are said to be forced to attend Koran lessons and militia camps where they are trained to wage war on their own people.

Since 1989, the Christians have been fighting President al-Bashir, who has been accused of involvement in an assassination attempt against President Mubarak of Egypt in Khartoum this year. Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, visited southern Sudan last year to lend support to the embattled Christian community.

## Chernobyl closure faces delay

Kiev: Ukraine could postpone a promised closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power station by the end of the century unless the West provides more money more quickly, the country's top negotiator on the issue said.

"We have proposed to our partners to leave unfixed the date of Chernobyl's closure," Yuri Kostenko, the Environment Minister, said after two days of talks with Western experts. "Existing financial resources in the form of grants are clearly insufficient to start work on closing down Chernobyl." (Reuters)

## Petition rejected

Dar es Salaam: Tanzania's High Court has rejected an Opposition petition to bar the publication of results from parliamentary and presidential polls, which the Opposition says were rigged. (Reuters)

## Korean threat

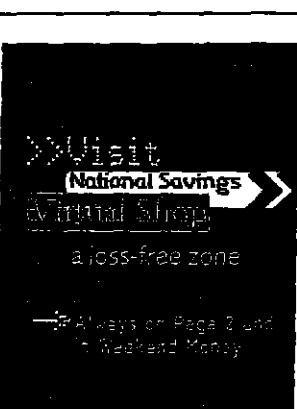
Seoul: North Korea has threatened to halt efforts to find the remains of American soldiers missing from the Korean War unless it is paid \$2.2 million in expenses incurred in past repatriations. (AP)

## Cash offer

Tokyo: The US military has asked defence lawyers for three servicemen, who go on trial on Tuesday accused of raping a 12-year-old girl on Okinawa, to consider offering compensation. (AP)

## ANC leads

Johannesburg: The African National Congress so far has won 67 per cent of the vote in local elections. The National Party was its strongest opposition with 23.2 per cent, state radio said. (Reuters)



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# 200,000 Filipinos seek to flee fury of deadly Angela in country's worst battering

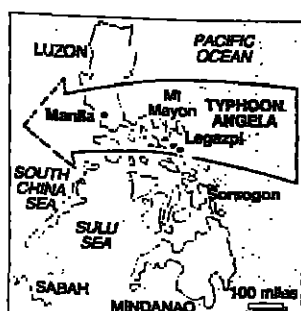
## Super-typhoon kills 66 in howling trail of mass destruction

FROM ALISTAIR MCINTOSH  
IN MANILA

THE most powerful typhoon to hit the Philippines for years howled across the country yesterday, killing 66 people, sending more than 200,000 fleeing from their homes and leaving millions without power.

"This is the worst beating we have ever had," said Severo Alcantara, the Governor of Catanduanes, before all communications with the island province, bar ham-radio links, were cut. Catanduanes, 220 miles east of Manila, the capital, was the first area to feel the fury of Angela, described by weathermen as a "super-typhoon" because of its size and power.

Up to 500 miles in diameter and with winds initially gusting up to 155mph, Angela then scythed across the southern



part of Luzon, the most prosperous and heavily populated island in the nation of 65 million people. Its outer fringes began to hit Catanduanes on Thursday night and its eye passed south of Manila by 11.30am yesterday, although its huge size meant that its force was felt for several hours.

At least ten people died when volcanic debris loosened by rain thundered down the

flanks of Mount Mayon near Legazpi, the main city of the worst-hit Bicol region. Thousands of traditional Filipino wood and palm-thatch homes were destroyed. Initial estimates put damage to property and crops, such as rice and coconuts, at more than 1.2 billion pesos (£30 million).

"We have no food. We may die of starvation here," Raul Lee, the Governor of Sorsogon province in the Bicol region, told a Manila radio station. "All of our crops have been destroyed. We are asking the Government in Manila to please send us 200 sacks of rice. We have never seen a typhoon like this."

President Ramos, taking personal charge of relief efforts in Manila, said: "Saving lives and reducing damage is the main event at this time." More than 200,000 people, including 20,000 in the



Philippine fishermen watch helplessly from a sea wall yesterday as their boat is sunk by Typhoon Angela

capital, fled for their lives and crowded into evacuation centres in schools, churches and, in at least one case, a shopping mall. The normally congested city turned into a ghost town as its 8.5 million people cowed

indoor. In the deserted business district of Makati, the wind set up an eerie shrieking noise as it pounded high-rise buildings.

Angela is the worst cyclone to strike the Philippines, bat-

tered by an average 20 storms a year, since Typhoon Nina killed 1,000 people in 1987. It struck less than a week after Typhoon Zack killed more than 160 people in the central Philippines. Manila airport

was closed for most of yesterday. Weather forecasters said that, by the time Angela had left the Philippines, heading towards Vietnam, it had reached a top wind speed of 106mph. (Reuters)

## Missing 'boy' clue to chaos

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE devastation caused by Typhoon Angela could be linked to the disappearance of the El Niño southern oscillation, a cyclical shift in the temperatures of the central Pacific Ocean.

This year, sea surface temperatures have cooled towards normal, ending an El Niño event that has lasted for several years. But records show that hurricanes and typhoons are more common in years when the El Niño — "the Boy Child" so named by Peruvian fishermen who benefit with booming catches — cannot be detected.

Given a long run of typhoons, some are bound to be more powerful than others — just as waves falling on a sea shore vary in intensity. While Angela reached wind speeds high enough to do enormous damage, it was by no means a record. That is held by Joan, which struck in October 1970, and killed 2,361 people in the Philippines.

## UN rights pledge on Hong Kong reports

FROM PETER CAPELLA  
IN GENEVA

THE United Nations Human Rights Committee is to continue to report on rights in Hong Kong after the colony reverts to Chinese rule, brushing aside Peking's objections that it is not bound by a key international convention.

The committee, which has just concluded its fourth regular review of human rights in Hong Kong, said in its final report yesterday that the Joint Declaration on the colony's future obliged the Chinese to carry on accounting to the UN body for the respect of civil liberties there after 1997.

China has not signed the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights. Talks between Britain and Peking on Thursday remained deadlocked.

Francisco José Aguilar Urbina, the chairman, called on Britain to report to the UN next year. He said he hoped to gain a better idea then on the steps to be taken to guarantee civil liberties. He also welcomed the prospect of Chinese participation.

Hong Kong's legal framework was also criticised because two-thirds of the Legislative Council's members are not democratically elected.

## Suspected car bomb accomplice arrested

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN police in the Gaza Strip announced yesterday that they had arrested a man suspected of buying the two cars used in Thursday's twin suicide bomb attacks in which the two bombers died and 11 Israelis were hurt.

The bombings were ordered in revenge for the assassination in Malta of the Islamic Jihad founder, Fathi Shuqai, by Israeli Mossad agents.

The speed of the arrest, made according to Major-General Abdel-Razeq Majajda, the police commander, late on Thursday night, came as the Israeli Government was putting heavy pressure on Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority leader, to take tougher action against Islamic terrorists in Gaza.

Israeli leaders have given warning that the programme to pull back troops from the West Bank's main Arab towns will be halted unless there is a harsher crackdown on Islamic hardliners determined to wreck the peace process.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said he expected "more efficient activity" to prevent attacks from being launched from areas under Palestinian police control.



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French President's 30-year-old Cabinet protégé is tipped for top post in expected reshuffle

## Youthful face of Chirac rule has eye on power

FRANÇOIS BAROIN is surely the only French Cabinet minister with a taste for punk rock. For M Baroin, in addition to being spokesman for the Government, a secretary of state, and mayor of a large city, is just 30 years old.

The youngest minister in the history of the Fifth Republic, his is the youthful voice of the Chirac regime, when France explodes a nuclear device it is M Baroin, fresh-faced and bespectacled, who must announce the fact to the world and defend the ancient might and majesty of the French state. The only comparable example of French political precocity goes back half a

PARIS FILE  
by BEN  
MACINTYRE



century. In 1944, Charles de Gaulle included in his provisional council an ambitious 28-year-old in charge of prisoners of war. His name was François Mitterrand.

The comparison is a telling one, for political insiders predict that M Baroin is destined for yet greater things. "This is an apprentice posting," President

Chirac told his young protégé on appointing him as spokesman, a job that carries immense clout as well as ministerial responsibility. For weeks there have been rumours of an imminent Cabinet reshuffle and M Baroin is being tipped as likely to be awarded a top post, possibly and most predictably Minister

for Youth and Sport.

Three years ago M Baroin was an undistinguished television reporter, but firmly plugged into France's political elite. His father, Michel, a Masonic Grand Master, prominent businessman, politician and close friend of the Chiracs, was killed in a plane crash in 1987.

M Chirac stepped in to become, in effect, the young François's adoptive father. "He told me he would always have a half hour for me, whenever I needed it," recalls M Baroin, but the future President provided him with rather more than that.

Aged 28, M Baroin was elected to parliament. He was brought into the Chirac presidential campaign as spokesman, and retained the job after the election in May this year. M Baroin's government post meant that he had to give up his seat in parliament, but in June he was elected Mayor of Troyes, in northern France, three days before his 30th birthday. Since then he has shown himself adept at pre-



François Baroin, the French government spokesman and teenage heart-throb

sending the government line, while also appearing as a heart-throb on the cover of teenage magazines. The Chirac Government, battered by a series of corruption scandals, badly needs to show

a new face to an angry electorate, and none could be newer than that of M Baroin. The preppy and guileless looks of the government spokesman should deceive no one, for, as one Cabinet

minister recently remarked, "behind his smile, there is a blade of steel". While the Government's favourite young Turk may have time on his side, he also has power firmly on his mind.

## Le Pen Jr rallies to immigrant

JEAN-MARIE LE PEN, the leader of the far-right National Front who wants foreigners repatriated, discovered this week that his daughter has been fighting to stop the expulsion of an Algerian immigrant.

Marine Le Pen, a lawyer who stood for the National Front in the 1993 parliamentary elections, has taken up the case of Nourredine Hamidi, a 44-year-old Algerian who has lived in France since the age of one but who faces expulsion for a robbery committed in his youth. Mme Le Pen says that M Hamidi's case is special and insists that she and her father still see eye to eye on immigration.

Providing further proof of the huge difference between generations, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has appointed as his co-ordinator of Franco-German co-operation Manfred Rommel, whose father Erwin, the Second World War "Desert Fox", commanded the German forces in France.

Perhaps a Le Pen will one day become the French Ambassador to Algeria.

## 20,000 Leagues is too far down

A THIRD of the French population regularly takes tranquillisers, anti-depressants, sleeping pills or some other mood-altering drug, according to a recent survey.

However, the French are likely to be less happy to see their great works of literature artificially cheered up. Jules Verne's gloomy anti-hero, Captain Nemo, is apparently too depressing for American audiences, so Steven

Spielberg, the Hollywood director, has commissioned a script for a "prequel" to Verne's classic 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, in which the grumpy submariner is all sweetness and light.

"We are changing our initial script from dark to light because the studio does not want to spend \$60 or \$70 million immersing an audience in tragedy," a scriptwriter said.

## London group 'linked to Paris attacks'

By ADAM SAGE IN PARIS AND STEWART TENDLER

FRENCH police believe that the wave of terrorist attacks in the country has been orchestrated by Islamic fundamentalists based in London. French newspapers reported yesterday.

Last night Scotland Yard and security sources confirmed that a man named in the newspapers as the mastermind behind the bombings has been targeted by British officers working with the French. The man is legally resident in Britain with links to an Islamic fundamentalist newsletter and uses the nom de guerre, Abou Fares, the name publicised in Paris.

He is one of about half a dozen Algerians identified by the Renseignement Général, the French equivalent of the Special Branch. The group has links all over Europe and has been under surveillance by Special Branch officers and

Security Service units but has been careful not to violate any British laws. It has been watched travelling between Britain and France, Belgium, Germany and Sweden.

French intelligence passed to Britain has suggested that the group was mainly involved in fundraising at-

though there were also suspicions that some attacks may have been planned here. Police and Security Service officers believe that they may be dealing with a group which deliberately has based itself outside its theatre of operations to avoid attack.

Last month Stella Rimington, head of MI5, noted the wave of terrorist attacks in France and said that they illustrated how new threats could emerge and how difficult they were to deal with.

Such groups were relatively little known and worked in unstructured groups. The revelations in the French press came after a bombing campaign that has left 17 people dead and 177 injured this year. Claiming that investigators had foiled a planned attack on a market in Lille, the Government said that among those detained was Boualem Bensaïd, 27, an Algerian alleged to be a ring-leader of the Armed Islamic Group, which claims responsibility for the terror campaign in France.

Yesterday *Le Monde* reported that Mr Bensaïd had been in contact with Abou Fares, who is reported to have

planned the nine attacks perpetrated in France since July. Police had discovered the link by intercepting Mr Bensaïd's telephone calls.

Mr Fares, linked to the newsheet, *Al-Ansar*, had allegedly given orders to M Bensaïd in the week preceding the police raids, the newspaper said. It added that the London-based militant's name had been found in an address book belonging to Khaled Kelkal, 24, the Algerian suspected of involvement in at least one attempted attack and who was shot dead near Lyons in September.

□ **Polling days:** The French Foreign Ministry announced that it will allow Algerian residents just three days to vote in their presidential election next weekend, though the Algerians Government said they would have six days to cast a ballot. (Reuters)

## Nuclear plant to be fun park

Kalkar: A fast-breeder nuclear power plant that cost Germany seven billion marks (£2.2 billion) to build but was never used was sold yesterday for an unexplained sum to a Dutch investor.

Henny van der Most wants to turn it into an amusement park called Kern-Wasser-Wonderland - Nuclear Water Wonderland. The huge cooling towers may be integrated into a roller-coaster.

The reactor, 12 miles from the Dutch border in northwest Germany, was started in 1974. Thousands of police were called out regularly during mass demonstrations against its construction, completed in 1991. By then, five years after the Chernobyl disaster, the Government decided it would never go into operation. (AP)

## Italy sickened by its fighting fit invalids

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALIAN police yesterday began hunting for up to 50,000 fit people who have taken "jobs for life" reserved for the handicapped in yet another public-sector bribe scandal.

Cases have emerged of "blind" men driving school buses, "paraplegic" employees carrying heavy loads and "deaf and dumb" workers manning switchboards.

More than 300 Carabinieri paramilitary police are now searching records of 90 local health authorities to winkle out officials who issued disability certificates to healthy jobseekers in return for bribes. The scandal began with an investigation into the Ministry of Posts where 2,700 people are under investigation, including Carlo Vizzini, the former Minister for Posts. Judicial sources said that

the racket was common knowledge in many Government offices. Managers regularly assigned physically taxing jobs to people who were officially incapable of carrying them out.

Franco Frattini, Minister for the Civil Service, said that the exact number of false invalids was unknown, but that the figure of 30,000 "will certainly be exceeded". *La Repubblica* newspaper, citing judicial sources, puts the figure at 50,000. "One begins to wonder if any real invalid has ever been employed," the paper said.

Investigations are under way in 13 cities. A parallel investigation is being conducted into disability pensions: 15,000 fake pensioners have been found, but that is known to be the tip of the iceberg.

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The Times, in association with Barclays Premier, the gold charge card from Barclays, have joined forces to create a Museums and Galleries Passport Guide as part of a four-month celebration of art, history, science and industry. Readers will have an opportunity to visit over 100 museums and galleries offering special concessions ranging from reduced entry prices to free posters and discounts on purchases in museum shops.

The offer is valid until the end of March and readers will be able to explore some of Britain's most stimulating treasures, from famous national exhibitions to the sometimes overlooked municipal and privately owned collections which turn a first visit into a commitment to return.

The Museums and Galleries Passport Guide comes with a Passport Card and we will feature a series of regular special events from time to time in our Weekend section indicating some additional exhibitions you may want to visit and take advantage of our exclusive offer.

The Passport Guide is a beautifully illustrated pocket guide which includes brief descriptions of each museum and gallery and their permanent exhibitions and the concessions available, with occasional references to future programmes.

The selection of museums and galleries is eclectic. It includes Cornwall's Newlyn Art Gallery with its stimulating Contemporary art shows; the Medieval experience of Chaucer's Tales in Canterbury; the loam at the Lynton Museum in Norfolk; the Industrial Revolution at Ironbridge; the Museum of Childhood in Edinburgh, known, not surprisingly, as the noisiest in the world; the Linen Centre in Co Antrim and the Museum of Life in Cardiff. The coverage is widespread by both geography and interest.

There are also some specific exhibitions listed in the Guide. For instance, in London, there is the Royal Academy's celebration of the art of Africa, *Africa - the Art of a Continent*, which runs until January 21; the David Hockney retrospective of his works on paper which runs until January 28 at the same venue. Across the Thames at the Design Museum, *Paul Smith - True Brit*, is on until April 10, 1996, and uses light, sound, projections and video to capture the work of one of Britain's leading fashion designers.

There are new and expanding venues such as Catalyst, the Museum of the



Chemical Industry in Cheshire, which has just opened a new gallery tracing the use of chemicals from the earliest times, and in the spring plans to open another, Chemicals for Life, showing the latest technological achievements.

With the guide you will be able to plan special outings because there are detailed listings reflecting the seasons and festivals such as *Getting Ready for a Victorian Christmas* at Blists Hill Open Air Museum; *Whisky Galore* at the Imperial War Museum or *Animal Encounters* at the London Transport Museum.

Presentation of the Passport Card at these and other participating venues will entitle you to a range of concessions, including two tickets for the price of one at most locations listed in the Passport Guide. The card can be used as many times as you wish.

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All you have to do is collect four of the six tokens which will appear in *The Times* until next Friday, November 10, 1995. When you have collected four tokens, complete the coupon below and send them with a first class stamp, loose in the envelope, to: The Times Museums and Galleries Passport Office, Spero Communications, PO Box 349, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6YU.

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**OPINION**  
Never mind the quality of the film, just feel the weight of the merchandise



**VISUAL ART**  
The penetrating gaze of an African outsider: Sokari Douglas Camp's flamboyant work goes on show

# THE TIMES ARTS



**BASE NOTE**  
Beauty tamed at the box office: Kathleen Turner finds the going tough on Broadway



**BASE NOTE**  
Bruce Springsteen browses through Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* to find inspiration for his new album

Few British parents scan the Hollywood trade paper *Variety*, which is a pity. If they did, they would see a headline this week to lift their drooping hearts, or any other organs that are sagging under the strain of dealing with the parasite classes, otherwise known as children.

The headline reads: "Xmas kidpix delays may trip toy tie-ins". Er, quite. Luckily, the story beneath translates this Delphic statement into something akin to English: "Shifting release schedules have put two holiday kid pics perilously close to Christmas, endangering their ability to generate major merchandising coin."

Still baffled? You really have lost the plot of global entertainment. Let me elucidate. And after that, I will explain what it's all about.

Two Hollywood studios, Columbia and Universal, have each made a kids' movie. Both will doubtless be massive at the box office. But box-office takings these days only account for part of the

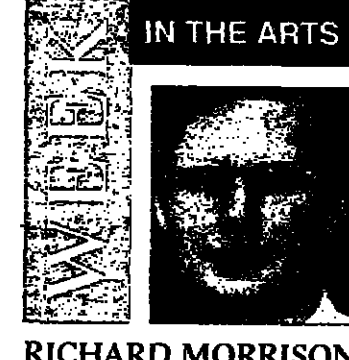
## Hollywood is just toying with us

dosh to be made from a successful film. The rest comes from a wheeze called "merchandising". You plaster your film's logo over otherwise unremarkable clothing, hamburgers, toys. Then you sell the unremarkable items in vast numbers at remarkable prices. Ladies and gentlemen, it's called progress. When we were children, we just had boring old marbles.

And here is more progress. Film studios now save merchandisers the trouble of imitating what is on the screen. Instead, in an extended leap for mankind, what is on the screen serves purely as a 100-minute advertisement for toys that already exist. A few months ago, we welcomed *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*. Last week it was a scintillating *jeu d'esprit* called *Mortal Kombat* (love the spelling), based on a video-game.

Universal and Columbia are planning exactly this kind of assault on the kiddie market. Universal has made *Balto*, a cartoon about a heroic sledge-dog, which will be released in a blitzkrieg of cuddlesome merchandise. Columbia has dreamt up *Jumanji*, about a board game that comes to life. Naturally, the board game will soon come to life in every toyshop on six continents.

But sadly—or, to put it another way, amusingly—the studios have made a mess of their dates. Both films were due out in America this month, giving plenty of time before Christmas for megatons of merchandise to be shifted. But the studios forgot one thing. Disney is releasing its new teeny-camp this month. It is called *Toy Story*, and you don't need to be psychic to guess that its content



RICHARD MORRISON

will be the focus of a gargantuan merchandising operation. You see the problem for Universal and Columbia. If they competed directly with Disney, they would be blown away—heroic

sledge-dogs notwithstanding. So they pushed their release dates back a month. Disaster! Now their merchandisers are frantically warning them that this date is too close to Christmas to allow the requisite amount of mercantile trips to be sold. One can understand the shopkeepers' alarm. Would you want 90,000 unsold replicas of an heroic sledge-dog?

Nevertheless, parents will feel some malicious glee at the studios' discomfort. They have been fleecing us for years. Now let them drown in their own useless toys.

Don't get me wrong. I know you can't turn the clock back to the days when a cinema outing required additional expenditure no greater than the cost of a hot dog, dripping with ketchup that left

attractive scarlet streaks on your anorak. But I do wish that these family blockbusters weren't released so often, each one rendering the previous merchandise obsolete in the eyes of your offspring.

I look round our own house. Good grief, it's like some bizarre time-capsule evoking Late 20th-Century Trash Culture. We should seal it (perhaps we could get an Arts Council grant?) and decree that it is opened by archaeologists in the year 3000. They could then sift through the junk like geologists probing the Earth's crust.

Ninja Turtles dating back to the prehistoric 1980s would be uncovered. Power Rangers, the must-have accessories of early 1990s playgrounds, would emerge from the innards of armchairs. Pogs—those overgrown Hawaiian tiddlywinks that mysteriously swept the

world last year—would shower down from shelves, each one bearing the reassuring guarantee that it is the official product of the "World Pog Corporation", and not just any old plastic rubbish.

Jurassic Park mugs; *Aladdin* swords that light up; *Lion King* playsets; *Gladiators* puppets... all would be uncovered, bearing witness to the intellectual life of 1990s Child. And, of course, to the gullible, weak-willed nature of 1990s Parent.

This month's essential purchase is "Baywatch Barbie", a blonde dolly equipped with her own red swimsuit and everything that bulges inside it. Well, I am not averse to having a few replicas of Pamela Anderson around the house. But this doll is a mere two inches wide. That seems a very ungenerous tribute to the most voluptuous icon of our age.

Still, I understand that Baywatch Barbie does come with a plastic dolphin that actually talks. No home is complete without one.

## Where giants walk in Africa

Like many expatriates, the sculptor Sokari Douglas Camp likes to have those odd touches about the house to remind her of home. Sit in her south London living room and you are dwarfed by two steel palm trees that soar through the atrium—one so tall that it was once sent home in disgrace from a South Bank exhibition because it threatened to dislodge the roof of the Festival Hall.

Magnificent though they be, on the day I visited the palms were heavily upstaged by eight Africans from hell: massive grotesque figures destined for Douglas Camp's exhibition, *Play And Display*, at the Museum of Mankind. The most un-African element in the room is a steel sculpture entitled *Rose and Vi*, two geriatrics complete with shopping trolley, their class characterised by plastic rainhats and remedial shoes. Douglas Camp is fascinated

**Nigeria's top sculptor has had a life as vivid as her art, says Ros Drinkwater**

by the minutiae of human behaviour, its styles and mannerisms. *Rose and Vi* is part of a four-year long observation of her south London neighbours, with what one critic described as "the penetrating gaze of the unrepentant African outsider".

Douglas Camp was born the fifth child of the third wife (papa eventually clocked up 15) of a fisherman and Kalabari chief on the island of Buguma in southeast Nigeria. Had it not been for her mother's entrepreneurial spirit, she might still be in the mangrove swamps. "Nigerian women

are great entrepreneurs," she explains. "Mother put all her children through school on the profits of palm-oil sales."

Aged three, she went to live with her schoolteacher sister, who had married an English anthropologist. When the sister died in childbirth, she remained with her brother-in-law, who sent her, at the age of eight, to an Oxford boarding school. She took the culture change in her stride, although she still shudders at the memory of the first time she ate grouse.

Not until adolescence did the question of race arise. "By then I was at Darrington Hall School and very consciousness of my 'difference', she says. "I had no role models: a pretty girl had a pink complexion and a rosebud mouth." Worse was to come. Sent to a Yorkshire comprehensive on a short-term student-exchange scheme, she was chased by skinheads. "Every other person seemed to tell me to have a bath. Funny people, I thought. I had a bath this morning. Then the penny dropped."

After taking her A levels, Douglas Camp opted to study art in California, where she thought black people would have a more visible role. It did not quite live up to expectations. "My fellow students had either served prison sentences or had extraordinary grants for being deprived, and they got their grades by making their teachers feel guilty. They were an elite for all the wrong reasons."

Back in Nigeria, she married an English architect, Alan Camp. The couple decided to settle in England, and in 1983 she graduated from the Central School and went on to take her MA at the Royal College. Until the death of her father, in 1984, she sculpted in wood. "I had a need to mourn him in my own way," she says. "So I decided to make him a funeral bed. I couldn't afford brass, so I made it from sheet steel."

This has been her preferred material ever since, the intricate open work of her massive figures echoing the complex basketry of the Kalabari fish traps which surrounded her as a child. Her professional breakthrough came with a show at Washington's Smithsonian Institution in 1988, and now her sculpture can be found in museums and galleries around the world.

Her latest work is a study of the Masquerade, an integral part of her native Nigerian culture, which consists of dance performances by men dressed as water spirits,



Sokari Douglas Camp wearing Kalabari tribal dress with three of her huge sculptures

guardians of the islands. Her aim is to correct deep-rooted European misconceptions of African art. "There are vast aesthetic differences in what we appreciate and what Westerners appreciate," she says. "I had to come to terms with that all through my art education. The Kalabari people have no awareness of art in the Western sense. Intelligent though she was, my mother never managed to grasp the principle of perspective. For my own part, nudity in Western art always foxed me. It seemed so

alien: most of the time you see people with clothes on, and I like familiar sights."

Douglas Camp feels that African art seen in the West loses a great deal because it is filtered through Western perceptions of taste. "The original idea for this exhibition was that I should take the objects in the Museum of Mankind as my starting point, but I found myself overwhelmed by all these masks—they can't begin to tell the full story. The full story is all about spirit and sacrifice; power, fear and won-

der: costume, stance and colour. You can't express that with a disembodied head."

True to Douglas Camp's comments on the culture clash, the Museum of Mankind declined to use one of her figures on the poster lest the overt sexuality of its rolling-pin breasts offend public taste, and, heaven forbid, incite graffiti. After all, this is England. Something, alas, Douglas Camp is not likely to forget.

Play and Display, *Masquerades of Southern Nigeria* is at the Museum of Mankind until March

### BASE NOTES

THE National Theatre's New York transfer of Jean Cocteau's *Les Parents Terribles*, renamed *Indiscretions* for its Broadway run, has its last performance today after a disappointing show at the box office. Despite a cast headed by Kathleen Turner and Roger Rees, and a record nine Tony nominations last June, the show's audiences have been declining through the summer and autumn.

● NEXT week sees the launch of the Philip Larkin Society. The society, whose first president will be the poet Anthony Thwaite, plans to organise conferences, exhibitions and seminars. The launch will be part of the Hull Literature Festival, with a programme of events involving readings and talks by contemporary poets, including Andrew Motion. Larkin's biographer (November 10-12).

● MAJOR cast changes have been announced for the West End production of *Oliver!* at the Palladium. From November 13, Joe McGann will take over as Bill Sikes. Then in January Ruthie Henshall joins the cast as Nancy.

● BRUCE Springsteen has turned to the novelist John Steinbeck for inspiration in writing his forthcoming new album, *The Ghost Of Tom Joad*. Recorded in his home studio, its 12 songs are said to offer modern-day perspectives on characters and situations from *The Grapes Of Wrath*. Springsteen will support the LP on his first-ever solo acoustic tour, with British dates to be announced shortly.

● AN EXHIBITION of paintings and drawings by Philip Meninsky, *The World Of Dance*, goes behind the scenes at English National Ballet. The artist



Philip Meninsky's *Lara Adjusting Ribbon*

spent hours with the company in class and in rehearsal. The results will be on show at the Dillon Gallery, London SW13 (0181-288 9338), from Friday.

● THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the release of Carole King's seminal LP *Tapestry* is to be marked with a tribute album, *Tapestry Revisited*, on which each of the original tracks is covered by a famous King fan—Aretha Franklin, Celine Dion, Eternal and Amy Grant among them.

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THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

# GLORY OF CHRISTMAS

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opening choruses by ROBERT LUTHER

Worthy is the Lamb, For unto us a Child is

born; GOUNOD Ave Maria; FRANCK Pastorale

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BOYANVITRA BOTTORE tenor, CHRISTIAN STEELE

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SAT 16 & SAT 22 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

# HANDEL'S MESSIAH

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER

THE HUDDESFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY

PAUL LUDINGTON WRIGHT conductor

SUSAN ROBERTS, KATHLEEN MCKELLAR FERGUSON

RICHARD COXON, RICCARDO SIMONETTI

SBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA

SATURDAY 22 DECEMBER

BRIAN WRIGHT conductor

CATHERINE WATKINS, KESSICA DE FORT DAVIES

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# MONDAY 18 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

# CHRISTMAS GALA

with the PHILHARMONIA

PHILHARMONIA CHORUS

CHOIR OF WINDYBANK CATHEDRAL

DAVID HILL, conductor, STEPHEN VANCE baritone

HANDEL Zadok The Priest; VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

Fantasia on Christmas Carols; ALBINONI Adagio

HANDEL Messiah - Tenor Soloists, TCHAIKOVSKY

The Nutcracker, Ory DANCE in The Ring

Midwinter CAROLS & CHRISTMAS

SONGS for Choir & CAROLS for all

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# THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

# CHRISTMAS OPERA GALA

A SPECIAL PRE-CHRISTMAS OPERA GALA

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PROGRAMME OF POPULAR EXCITS, MANY WITH A

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Handel Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, Albinoni Adagio

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Op 34 No 1 in A flat & No 2 in A minor Liszt Valse Quilbe

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Peter Broadbent conductor Anthony Wray baritone

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mezzo-soprano John Hudson tenor Henry Waddington bass

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The star of BBC 2's 'Viva La Diva' sings highlights from her chart

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# Lesley Garrett

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Michael Prestor-Roberts tenor David Barrell baritone

BBC Concert Orchestra Peter Robinson conductor

The star of BBC 2's 'Viva La Diva' sings highlights from her chart

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# Fireworks, riches and sparklers

James Bartholomew on Prince Jefri, the new owner of Asprey

I confess I have always had a soft spot for Prince Jefri, the man who is now buying Asprey. When I was researching a book about his brother, the Sultan of Brunei, I used to be very glad of the way Prince Jefri made an appearance in front of my hotel every day.

In my lonely room, I used to know he was on his way when I heard the sound of sirens whining over the otherwise dead-as-a-dormant town that is the capital of Brunei.

I went to the window and saw two motorcycle outriders racing forward at far greater speed than any other traffic. Closely behind, snapping at their heels, darning the dark form of an all-black Porsche driven by the speed-loving Prince. And lumbering behind came a limousine, containing his security men, no doubt.

This twice-daily screech was an entertainment, partly because Brunei is one of the dumbest places on earth, and partly because Prince Jefri is a wonderfully dashing, anachronistic figure. He should be in an Evelyn Waugh novel. It is too lovely to believe that he really exists in the 1990s.

He is awesomely rich. He is decidedly good-looking. Even his best friends would not confuse him with a rocket scientist. But he does like to have fun. He likes — not necessarily in this order — gold, fast cars, young women, high-heeled boots, designer clothes, polo, and parties. These days they do not make many

chaps like this who can also, if it takes their fancy, buy up a luxury store in Bond Street. His wealth is entirely due to the fact that his family happens to be the ruling dynasty of a tiny country on whose coastline an enormous quantity of oil and gas has been discovered. His brother is a Sultan. Jefri himself is the Finance Minister. Ruling Brunei is a family business. There was an attempt to introduce democracy a few decades ago but British soldiers put an end to that. So Jefri remains the brother of one of the very last absolute monarchs.

Stories of his appetite for enjoying his wealth are so many that it is hard to know which to choose. His fun is not over sophisticated but then that is not the nature of fun. His most recent extravagance was hiring Rod Stewart to sing at a party for one of his children. But my favourite story about Prince Jefri is more topical considering that November the Fifth is tomorrow. It concerns his delight in discovering fireworks.

He was so thrilled by them that he decided that a once-a-year series of explosions on Guy Fawkes night was not enough. Nor did he think the fireworks available in ordinary shops were sufficiently substantial. So he contacted Brocks, a manufacturer of fireworks, and asked for large, commercial-size fireworks.

One night these were prepared in drain-size launchers in the garden of his Hampstead Garden Suburb home in north London. The display was, of course, utterly spectacular. So spectacular, in fact, that a wealthy and important

Arab gentleman living close by thought that some terrorist group was attacking him and that his very life was in danger. In panic, he called the police.

Nothing could be more natural than that someone like Prince Jefri should want to buy Asprey. It will be rather like buying the local grocer who has been supplying his family for decades. The boutiques on Bond Street to Brunei are legion. Jefri's sister-in-law, Queen Mariam (a former airline hostess), used to dish out Asprey wares to people who came to play badminton at her palace.

Asprey is just right for the Prince. It is lowbrow but glamorous. Who can forget that triumph of the jeweller's art as perpetrated by Asprey: the silver-gilt sculpture of a toasted, triple-decker egg sandwich? More recently the front hall has been decorated by the juke box to end all juke boxes — retro-style and gold-plated at the tempting price of £285,000. It might sound awful but I assure you that the exuberance of its vulgarity is a delight.

As to whether Prince Jefri can make a success of Asprey in the business sense, that is another matter. Asprey has been in difficulties

## The party explosions prompted a neighbour to call the police

Then Asprey, with the excessive pride that can come from success, expanded under the guidance of Naim Attallah. It spent £110 million buying Watches of Switzerland and other shops and businesses. This did not work out. The new acquisitions made losses. Asprey itself continued to make profits but not as much as before. The big buyers did not lavish quite so much on gilded bears and diamond-encrusted, miniature dinosaurs. The share price slumped. And so, arguably, the Prince is not picking up a bargain.

But whether or not the Prince can lead the company back to recovery and renewed success is a very open question. He apparently has the idea that the Asprey brand name could be exploited around the world. This is surely true. But exploiting brand names is not a new game. There are now hundreds of companies trying to do the same sort of thing after the famous early successes of Dunhill, Gucci and others. To succeed takes considerable business skills. Much, then, will depend on the new managing director, Ian Dahl, who has previous experience of working for Marks & Spencer.

There is the possibility, then, that the Prince will not make a great profit on his shareholding, but that he would have done better to take his £200 million plus along to the local building society and put it safely on deposit. Still, that would have been less entertaining for the public. And for him, no fun at all.

After years of separatist strife, Anne McElvoy finds that the guns are falling silent

# The sex war retreat

The future of politically incorrect humour is under threat. Not from the barmaids who took their employer to court for allowing Bernard Manning to indulge his famously insensitive humour in their presence, nor from the ever tighter definitions of what constitutes verbal sexual harassment. The real problem is the steady disappearance of its prime targets. Political correctness is on the wane in Britain.

If you were wondering what has become of the black, one-legged lesbian of stand-up comedian lore, she was probably not to be found at last week's meeting in Camden to discuss the future of the threatened Lesbian Centre and Black Lesbian Group. Only 20 people turned up. The institution may well follow its sibling organisations — Lesbian Survivors of Sexual Abuse, Support for Lesbians with Long Illnesses and Disabilities and the Italian Lesbian Group — into extinction.

The members as usual blame "lack of resources" for the decline of their group, although had the good grace to admit: "We got the reputation of being bathetic. It was known as the sort of place where you went if you had problems."

This might lead us to suppose that black, abused, disabled and Italian lesbians no longer have any problems, which is surely not the case. They have their share of griefs and joys like human beings of any sexual

orientation. It is just that they no longer seek solace in such numbers in miserable council premises. Perhaps they have discovered that friends are less likely to be poorly resourced than municipal groups because true support and support are not commodities which can be bought and allocated centrally, and that a cheerful night out is more likely to lift the spirits than a stint at a woebegone support group.

The fate of Camden's lesbians mirrors a wider shift from the margins to the mainstream among groups who, until recently, prided themselves on wanting to be alone with their own narrowly defined sort. The tide of separatism, based around gender exclusivity or sexual orientation, seems to be turning fast. Virago, which traditionally included on its frontispiece the literary health-warning "Virago is a feminist publishing house", has admitted its first male author. Afflicted by a slump in sales and a reputation for recycling elderly novels by women authors who were not even good first time round, it has been sold off to the mainstream Little, Brown.

How things have changed since my own university days in the mid-1980s, where the aspiring woman's CV

consisted of being women's officer in the student union and chairing a committee on sexual harassment in the hope of one day securing a job at Virago. Curious about the fate of Men Against Sexism and the Feminist Theory Reading Group, which had been revered organisations at my Oxford college, I called up the president of the Junior Common Room. He sounded puzzled. "I've never heard of them," he said. "We don't have a big divide between women's and men's interests in the college." It impressed me that he spoke as if this harmonious existence were the natural order of things. The days when the Men Against Sexism group met to beat their breasts about how guilty they felt for desiring women had passed out of student folk-memory.

I cannot help thinking that the decline in separatist enterprises, informed by a mixture of self-pity and aggression, is a positive feature of the gentler social climate of the Major years. The ideological polarities of Margaret Thatcher's reign pervaded every area of our thinking and set up antagonisms and divisions where none need have existed. Irrespective of political persuasion, we

were all Thatcher's children in that we defined ourselves by being pro this or anti that, and were accepted or rejected from social groups and alliances on that basis. Group-rights went unquestioned, individual opinions or pick-and-mix politics à la Tony Blair unthinkable.

This was a pallid, middle-class version of the Leninist concept of struggle. The statement of Virago's founders read: "It is only when women start to organise in large numbers that we become a political force and move forwards towards the possibility of a truly democratic society." They appeared to have swallowed *State and Revolution* whole. All they did was substitute women for the oppressed proletariat.

The irony is that despite Margaret Thatcher's role as chief monster in the eyes of group rights campaigners, they thrived best under her. The very idea of a "support group", previously reserved for empathising with the plight of the downtrodden in faraway places, was popularised at home during the miners' strike and then applied to just about any group who felt that they needed the warmth of the herd. You cannot, with the most paranoid will in the world, feel that you need much group support faced

with the terrors of John Major.

Watching the solemn, proud faces gathered at Louis Farrakhan's Million Man March in Washington last month brought home to me how different things are in America, where race rather than gender currently holds the trump card in the separatist game. Farrakhan demonstrated that however flawed and wild his rhetoric, he could command that sense of irrational belonging which makes people define their entire political and social consciousness through a single characteristic — in this case, skin colour.

Angela Davis, ur-feminist campaigner who is, herself, black, described the event as "retrograde politics, casting men as the saviours of families and communities". Her real beef was that the burgeoning black movement was usurping the redeeming role feminism reserved for women.

Both crusades diminish the people they claim to elevate by limiting their contribution to human happiness and their understanding of the world through the narrowest of channels. The signs are, alas, that American blacks are currently more receptive to the message of Farrakhan, who thinks that colour maketh man, than to Colin Powell, who believes that identity and interests are a more individual matter. The sex war may have been called off owing to lack of interest. But its rallying cries will be heard again, on other lips.

# The Bard bites back

The Prince of Wales has published his favourite extracts of Shakespeare. We give the Bard right of reply, through lines taken exclusively from his plays

Scene one: A tavern in Southwark. Enter Shakespeare with copy of "The Prince's Choice". He is black-browed.

BARD: Was ever book containing such vile matter So fairly bound? O that deceit should dwell

In such a gorgeous palace! I pray you sir, what saucy merchant was this, that was so full of his ropery? Scoury knave!

TAVERN-KEEPER: A gentleman that loves to hear himself talk, and will speak more in a minute than he will stand to in a month.

BARD: What, up and down, carved like an apple-pear?

Simon Jenkins

Here's snip and nip and cut and slash and slash. Like to a censor in a barber's shop! You have no children, butcher: if you had, The thought of them would have stirred up remorse. But if you ever chance to have a child, Look in his youth to have him so cut off.

TAVERN-KEEPER: They have been at a great feast of languages and stol'n the scraps. O, they have lived long on the alms-basket of words. I marvel thy master hath not eaten thee for a word. It is the Prince of Wales that threatens thee, who never promiseth but he means to pay.

BARD: That same sword-and-buckler Prince of Wales! But I think his father loves him not And would be glad he met with some mischance.

I would have him poisoned with a pot of ale.

He hath not the gift to woo in other places; for these fellows of infinite tongue, that can rhyme themselves into ladies' favours, they do always reason themselves out again. I'll write him a very taunting letter, and thou shalt bear it. I'll write it straight: the matter's in my head and in my heart. I will be bitter with him and passing short.

Scene two: St James's Palace. Enter Charles, disconsolate, and a courtier.

COURTIER: Play music! Prince, thou art sad, get thee a wife, get thee a wife.

CHARLES: A college of wit-crackers cannot flout me out of my humour. Dost thou think I care for a satire or an epigram? Man is a giddy thing and this is my conclusion. For every trifle they are set upon me.

Sometimes like apes that move and chatter at me, And after bite me. . . sometimes am I All wound with adders, who with cloven tongues Do hiss me into madness.

(Enter messenger with Bard's letter)

CHARLES (reading): "I am cut to the brains. Why this would make a man of salt To use his eyes for garden water-pots. Bruise me with scorn, confound me with a flout, Cut me to pieces with thy keen conceit, And I will wish thee never more to dance."

'Tis a knavish piece of work. But what of that? Your majesty and we that have free souls — it touches us not. Let the gall'd jade winch, our withers are unwrung!" (Charles throws letter on floor, annoyed)

They take it already upon their salvation that, though I be but Prince of Wales, yet I am the king of courtesy, and tell me flatly, I am no proud Jack but a Corinthian, a lad of mettle, a good boy. God forbid



As he liked it, Prince Charles gives his Macbeth at Gordonstoun in 1965

a shallow scratch should drive the Prince of Wales from such a field as this. (To courtier) Fortune in favour makes him lag behind. Summon a parley, we will talk with him.

Scene 3: Southwark tavern. Enter Bard and Globe actress, reading the royal summons.

BARD: I warrant he hath a thousand of these letters, writ with blank spaces for different names. And these are of the second edition! He will print them, out of doubt; for he cares not what he puts into the press. Let's appoint him a meeting. Give him a show of comfort in his suit.

ACTRESS: I know I can do it. I will drop in his way some obscure epistles of love, wherein by the colour of his beard, the shape of his leg, the expressure of his eye, forehead and complexion, he shall find himself most feelingly personated.

BARD: Excellent, I smell a device.

Scene four: St James's. Prince reading letter in female hand:

CHARLES: Soft, here follows prose: "Be not afraid of greatness. . . Cast thy humble slough and appear fresh. Be opposite with a kinsman, surly with servants; let thy tongue tang arguments of state; put thyself into the trick of singularity. Remember who commended thy

yellow stockings and wish'd to see them ever cross-garter'd. . . She thus advises thee that sighs for thee." Jove, my stars be praised. The actors are at hand; and by their show, We shall know all, that we am like to know.

Scene five: Night time under a tree. Charles has arranged an assignation. Enter Bard, disguised as actress.

BARD (in high voice): A whole bookful of these quondam carpet-mongers, whose names yet run smoothly in the even road of blank verse, why they were never so turned over as my poor self in love. No, I was not born under a rhyming planet, nor I cannot woo in festive terms.

CHARLES (much moved): Why thy verse swells with stuff so fine and smooth That thou art even natural in thine art. . .

Look you, I love you well, I'll give you gold. Rid me these villains from your company. Hang them, stab them, drown them in a draught, Confound them by some course, and come to me. I'll give you gold enough. Will you sit down with me and we two will rail Against our mistress the world and all our misery?

BARD (angrily tearing off disguise): I will chide no breather in the world but myself, against whom I know most faults. Your worst fault is to be in love.

CHARLES (appalled): 'Tis a fault I would not change for your best virtue. I am weary of you.

BARD: I pray you, mar no more of my verses with reading them so ill-favourably.

CHARLES: I pray you, mar no more trees with writing love songs in their barks.

BARD: Charles, I will play no more tonight. My Mind's not on't. You are too hard for me.

Each extract, of at least a couplet's length, is from a Shakespeare play: a copy of *The Prince's Choice* and a magnum of champagne for the first correct identification of them.

# Hot Bath

THE WORLD watched enraptured, but the BBC's dramatisation of *Pride and Prejudice* has not met with universal approval. Bath City Council is considering suing the corporation over its map of the *Making of Pride and Prejudice*. The trouble is over a map on page 23 showing the locations used



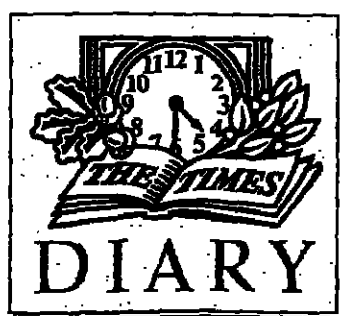
Causing a classic row

in the film. A large arrow points to Bath with the annotation "No filming allowed", and the council is livid.

Not only did the BBC shoot Jane Austen's *Persuasion* in Bath last October — and *Poldark* has been filmed there more recently — but the city goes out of its way to encourage film-makers to use it as a location. "We are taking this very seriously. The book makes us look like complete idiots and I've been talking to the city solicitor," says Richard Angel, of the council's film unit. "We are very pro-active in the film office. This year it has brought over £1.2 million into the local economy. A map like this doesn't help."

The BBC washes its hands of the affair. "It's a Penguin publication, so it's up to them to respond," says a representative. Penguin is surprised: "The arrow is meant to designate one building, not the whole of Bath," says a spokeswoman. "It sounds to me as if they are overreacting."

● The audience at Thursday's gala premiere of the film *Strange Days*,



which opened the London Film Festival, behaved like the fifth form at a school pantomime. When Wilf Stephenson, the director of the British Film Institute, mentioned the Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley in his speech before the screening, the entire cinema broke into howls, hisses and boos.

## Bench mark

PETER MANDELSON has been trying out the government benches for size. He made his frontbenches debut in the House of Commons on Thursday night as Shadow Civil Service Minister.

But before speaking, the slippery fish was spotted sitting on the government benches, trying out the

dispatch box and sharing a joke with Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman. "He seemed to find the seat of Government very accommodating," says an observer.

## Saucy

A HOT little rumour was circulating in Westminster yesterday: that the former party chairman Jeremy Hanley had acquired a pair of boxer shorts decorated with vivid images of bottles of Tabasco sauce.

Hanley was unavailable to answer the charge, which arose from a meeting in London on Thursday of an elite epicurean society, the Tabasco Club, which he has joined. "He didn't get to the meeting, but there are definitely two Members of Parliament with such underpants," said a fellow epicurean. Does Hanley wear them? And, if not, who are the two MPs? A pound of chilli peppers to the reader who finds out.

## Him of praise

THE PRINCE of Wales confesses to a secret passion for country churches in a TV programme to be screened tomorrow. He gets tre-

mendously excited whenever a church door opens. "It is a wonderful moment when you take in the whole of the interior of a church." His favourite is Walpole St Peter, near Sandringham. "There is this particularly special quality of light, which floods into it, and the combination of the stone, the wood, which has that slightly limed look, and the whitewashed walls are unbelievably comforting and special."

● Giles Gordon, the literary agent



"Apparently it's all about Camilla..."

who shocked the London literary establishment by moving to Edinburgh, has received a second writ from the Shell Land Agency he left, alleging that he "orchestrated" a press campaign against the agency's chief executive, Sonia Land. "I'm utterly bemused. At a loss to know what she wants from me," he says.

## Royal role

THE NEW Earl Percy, 11-year-old George Dominic Percy, whose father has just inherited his late brother Harry's title of Duke of Northumberland, will soon be receiving a royal command. By tradition, members of the family are train-bearers to members of the Royal Family on state occasions. His grandfather, the 10th Duke, was Lord Steward of the Household and Goldstick-in-Waiting at the Coronation of King George VI. His great-grandmother was Mistress of the Robes and train-bearer to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother for 25 years. Although the train-bearing role is usually granted to the eldest son, there is no record of Harry ever having done so, even though he was the Queen's godson. But scores of his forebears have attended the

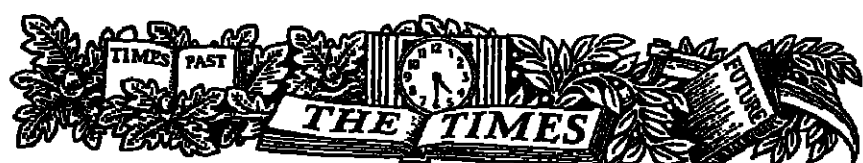


George: trained for office

Crown. Young George is unlikely to be asked to perform in the State Opening of Parliament later this month. But by the time of the Garter ceremony next June, he can expect a royal summons.

P.H.S





## KREMLIN SICKNESS

When leaders ail and parties are banned

President Yeltsin is more seriously ill than his aides have permitted the world to know. This became clear yesterday when he appeared on television in an attempt to quash rumours about his health — inevitable, given Russia's long history of mendacious reports about sick leaders' recoveries. President Yeltsin's face was puffy, his words slurred, his body virtually motionless. More tellingly, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, announced that he had taken over responsibility for co-ordinating the four key ministries in Russia: defence, security, foreign and internal affairs. To every Russian, the loss of the "power" ministries, however temporary, is a sure sign that Mr Yeltsin has surrendered his authority. It also indicates that Mr Chernomyrdin has, for the moment, won the power struggle that is now raging.

The best evidence for this struggle has been the brazen attempt by those who have the most to lose to hamper the parliamentary elections in December. The decision by the Central Election Commission to outlaw the nationalist grouping Derzhava was not unexpected: its leader is Aleksandr Rutskoi, the former vice-president who incited insurrection in 1993. When this was followed by a ban on the liberal Yabloko bloc, the suspicion immediately hardened that the Commission, acting under duress, was attempting to remove the twin threats — from the nationalists and the reformers — to the Prime Minister's own party which is most closely identified with support for Mr Yeltsin.

The pressure could have come only from the shadowy figures in the Kremlin wings. Like those who manipulated Brezhnev in his final, incapacitated years, they are determined to consolidate their power by maintaining the status quo. This means, if necessary, cancelling the Duma elections or so

restricting the choice that the election reverts to the classic Soviet foregone conclusion. The next step would be to cancel next summer's presidential election. Mr Yeltsin may by then be only a figurehead. But General Korzhakov, the sinister janissary who controls access to him, and those who have enriched themselves, materially and politically, could carry on ruling without check.

Yet however much in Russian politics has reverted to Soviet type, public opinion cannot now be flouted quite so transparently. Ordinary Russians may be cynical about politicians and distrustful of many Duma candidates seeking election to gain parliamentary immunity from criminal prosecutions; but they still believe the political freedoms gained after the fall of Communism worth defending. So, evidently, do the Communists. The party, now looking stronger than ever, was as vociferous in denouncing the ban on Yabloko as other groupings in the Duma. Presumably it reckoned that any victory gained at the expense of the only credible liberal grouping would undermine its own authority.

The Commission hastily announced it would look again at its decisions. So far it has reversed course over Derzhava, but has refused to back down on Yabloko. That decision may be taken today. Mr Yeltsin, who must know that he would now probably lose to Yabloko's leader, Grigory Yavlinsky, has therefore steered himself to confer on Mr Chernomyrdin the apparent trappings of succession. Some aides, hoping themselves to assume power by a palace coup, will be furious. But Mr Chernomyrdin has proved himself a cautious, steady, reliable conciliator. He projects continuity and legitimacy in a new time of troubles. Russian democracy, as the week's events show, is still extremely fragile: at least the Prime Minister is now better armed to prevent its collapse.

## BEFORE THE EMPIRE

Anglo-Saxon ideals that predate our imperial age

The Queen's trip to New Zealand this week was marred by angry demonstrations from Maori protesters, urging the Crown to give back the land allegedly stolen from the aboriginal peoples in 1840. She dealt with this hostility with customary grace and poise. As when she was phoned by a hoax caller from Canada last week, the Queen's demeanour in adverse circumstances was an advertisement for the monarchy and its incumbent, rather than the setback it might have been.

The grievance of the Maoris is one which the Prince of Wales encountered last year when he visited New Zealand. In 1840, their tribal ancestors signed the Treaty of Waitangi with Lieutenant-Governor Hobson, handing over New Zealand in return for assured possession of their lands, fisheries and forests.

The Maoris argue that many lands were wrongly confiscated and still have to be returned. Yesterday the Queen signed a strongly phrased apology as part of a £70 million package compensating the Tainui federation of tribes for lands taken from them 132 years ago. The settlement expressed "profound regret and apologies unreservedly for the loss of lives because of hostilities arising from this invasion and at the devastation of property and social life which resulted".

Few statements of this kind have ever been made by the Crown. It is not always possible to right the wrongs of the past or settle the arguments of history through retrospective action. Britain does not expect apologies from Spain for the Armada. It has proved difficult even to persuade Japan to make acceptable amends for the wartime atrocities it committed against British prisoners-of-war.

To correct the mistakes of a century or more ago is harder still. In New Zealand, the Crown has made commendable efforts to do so. Nor should the original wrongs be

exaggerated. The Waitangi agreement was remarkable for its recognition of the Maoris' legal personality. Australia, in contrast, was treated a *terra nullius* and the Aborigines as irrelevant inhabitants rather than prospective claimants. The 1840 deal governing New Zealand's future was scarcely enlightened by today's standards.

By the standards of its own time, it was a generous agreement and the cultural foundation of subsequent attempts to improve the lot of the Maoris. A Waitangi tribunal was instituted two decades ago to address the problems of the indigenous peoples and the special status of Maori people has long been a key question in New Zealand politics.

This is not to excuse the injustices of the past. But the instinct of Britons today to beat their collective chest in retrospective shame should be kept in check. As Robert Rhodes James argued in *The Times* yesterday, Britain's colonial record is far less awful than is often assumed. Many appalling errors were committed in the name of imperial Britannia; but so too were many acts of sincere paternalistic decency. Our nation's past must not be the cause of unalloyed guilt.

More importantly, we should not assume that our imperial past and our national roots are identical. The Anglo-Saxon virtues which the Queen celebrated in a speech on Thursday — "patience, tolerance, perseverance and a will to succeed" — have far older origins than the Empire which has been the cause of so much national introspection. Our most venerable characteristics are the product of island existence, a common law tradition and an individualistic attachment to property rights, tolerance and personal liberty. These ideals, far more than 19th-century colonialism, account for our national identity. It was these principles that enabled the Queen to behave with such apt sensitivity in New Zealand this week.

## SÃO MIDDLESBROUGH

Will Juninho shine, or will he go the way of Celtic Swing?

Although his game is more caviar than gravy, Juninho looks just like the Bisto Kid. And that may be why noble Middlesbrough, a classic meat-and-two-veg place, adores him already. The callow youth from São Paulo has not yet laid Brazilian boot to English ball — the Home Office killjoys have kept him on the bench so far — but he makes his debut today against an apprehensive Leeds United. Not since Celtic Swing's debut in April have so many sports-mad mouths watered so profusely. The kick-off at the Riverside Stadium, for millions, could not happen fast enough.

But wait, we hear you snort: hang on a minute... Celtic Swing? Celtic Swing? Wasn't that the "horse from heaven" who fell flat on his nostrils?

Actually, we do not need to be reminded: for humble pie — made not, alas, of Celtic Swing himself — was eaten in great chunks in Wapping, by everyone from the Editor to *The Times's* red-faced racing correspondent. Before the Greenham Stakes at Newbury, his column trumpeted that "Celtic Swing aces against Bellerophon" — and even Pegasus.

Those who ride him, we wrote, to our subsequent embarrassment, "say he is flawless. Those who watch — and bet — agree." The hotly-hyped horse did win at Newbury,

thank the turf gods, but didn't really win much more — not even our over-excited fantasy 2,000 Guineas, in which he "raced" on the *Timeform* computer against such equine greats as Tudor Mistrel and Nijinsky. Celtic Swing... well, we gooted. Not since the case of Charles Parnell has *The Times* had so much egg on its face, although our mistake in 1887 cost us more than an arm and a hoof in damages.

But then, over a century ago, we accused Mr Parnell, the leader of the Irish parliamentary group in the Commons, of complicity in the Phoenix Park murders. Serious stuff, when you think about it: Celtic Swing, on the other hand, was just a case of backing the wrong horse. We accused him, you might say, of being better than he really was.

So what has all of this to do with Osvaldo Giroldo Junior — Juninho? Quite a lot, really, because we are sticking our newsprint necks out once again. We predict that he will be the most rewarding foreign signing ever made by an English club. Juninho will mix magic and mansuetude, creamy pitch skills and off-pitch good manners, to confect a success in which all Middlesbrough will bask. And when he does that we will say — with some relief — that we have exorcised the ghost of Celtic Swing.

## Humanity versus security in prisons

From Mr Michael Chichester

Sir, In recommending that humanity should take precedence over security in prison policy, Judge Stephen Tumim, the Chief Inspector of Prisons (report, October 28, and see Judge Tumim's article, November 2), and the hosts of the liberal establishment who agree with him, have forgotten or perhaps chosen to ignore a vital democratic principle: the first duty of government is to defend the realm.

After 50 years of peace in Europe we citizens, our homes and our possessions are at greater risk than ever before — not from invasion or aerial bombardment but from terrorism, drugs, illegal immigration, violent crime and dangerous criminals allowed to escape or mistakenly set free from prison.

The defences of the realm against these diverse and increasing threats have been weakened and in some cases almost destroyed by legal and bureaucratic constraints on the police, inadequate sentencing policy, and poor prison security and lack of discipline — all compounded by the Treasury's iron grip on the law and order budget. If put into practice Judge Tumim's recommendation would deny the law-abiding citizen the protection against violent criminals to which he is entitled and which it is the duty of government to provide.

Prisons, their security and their staffing collectively represent an important area of national defence. Neither government agency nor private security firms are appropriate methods of providing this. Both governors and staff must be capable of enforcing firm and fair discipline on those in their charge and must bear responsibility for escapes and riots.

A civilised society protects its citizens and punishes its wrongdoers.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL CHICHESTER,  
The Mead House,  
Taynton, Burford, Oxfordshire,  
November 1.

From His Honour Michael Argyle, QC

Sir, Like very many law-abiding citizens of this country, I welcome with relief the imminent end of the long and disastrous term of office of the present Chief Inspector of Prisons. The last eight years have seen our prisons (awash with dangerous drugs) shamefully handed over to the control of prisoners, who number some 50,000 out of a total population of 58 million.

Two spin-offs have been that virtually nothing has been done for the victims of crime, and that the plight of the tiny, ill-led and under-resourced male and female members of the Prison Service has been ignored.

I am driven to write by the remark of the Chief Inspector of Prisons (whom I do not know personally) that the Learmont report on jail security will lead to "the road to the concentration camp". This is a gross and gratuitous insult to the rank-and-file members of the Prison Service and to the present Home Secretary, and yet another example of how the latter's efforts to reform and improve the present system are continually frustrated.

In the deep snow of the Italian winter of 1944-45, my dismounted squadron of regular cavalry fought alongside and cheek-by-jowl with the newly-formed Jewish Infantry Brigade.

Opposed to us (sometimes hand-to-hand) were the German SS, very professional soldiers, well armed and well dug in and increased at being confronted by a few Hussars, a handful of Canadian gunners and a brigade of candidates for their concentration camps. I saw at first hand the legendary courage of the Jews in battle. After that war, my late wife and I visited the site of Belson. I believe that I can write with authority on this subject.

I fervently hope that the next chief inspector of prisons is given a new and different brief and directive, enabling him or her to adopt a fresh approach. Basically, the post requires only one quality — leadership. Ask any member — male or female — of the 25,000 serving prison officers.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL ARGYLE,  
The Red House, Fiskerton,  
Nr Southwell, Nottinghamshire.

From Mr Victor Dyer

Sir, I wish to express how happy I was to hear Judge Stephen Tumim's views on the Learmont inquiry. As a prisoner who has been in many establishments over the years, I have recently seen a vast deterioration in the inmate-prison officer relationship because of the new regime introduced by Michael Howard.

There now seems to be more confrontation as officers are put on the front line to deal with inmates who have done nothing wrong against prison discipline and are being punished by the removal of privileges, such as association with other inmates, education facilities and more humane exercise. The budget is now concentrating on security and not on rehabilitation.

I can understand Judge Tumim's reference to "the concentration camp", as this seems to be the road along which Michael Howard is steering the Prison Service — not forward but in reverse.

Yours sincerely,  
V. DYER,  
HM Prison High Point,  
Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk,  
October 29.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Lost opportunity on Keats House

From Mr Gerald Isaaman

Sir, Your leader on the bicentenary of the birth of John Keats ("Romantic hero", November 1) rightly chastises Camden Council for its awful neglect of Keats House in Hampstead and procrastination over the transfer of this national shrine to the care of the Corporation of London.

The irony is that a meeting was due to take place on Keats's birthday, which is celebrated on October 31, between the Charity Commissioners, Camden and the City of London Corporation to finalise the registration of Keats House as a charity and its transfer. An announcement on that day would have made a welcome birthday celebration. Alas, the commission postponed the meeting.

Some two years have passed since it was first suggested to the Corporation that, given its record of care for Hampstead Heath, it should undertake responsibility for Keats House, so irresponsibly unloved by Camden. Much lobbying has gone on since then, while the house has been left to deteriorate.

It has just suffered the insult of the curator's being refused a V & A purchase grant to buy the important Buxton-Forman archive, formed by two leading scholars on the poet, because of the "insecure" future of the museum.

This is why it needs to be in safe hands so that it can be restored, granted full museum status, promoted as a

tourist attraction and perhaps profitably used as an educational resource for schools and, possibly, as a centre for romantic poetry.

This welcome outcome, the very least of what ought to be demanded in tribute to a genius who did not seek "mawkish popularity", could be assured at a stroke if only the Charity Commissioners and others realised that this national scandal has to be resolved urgently.

Yours sincerely,  
GERALD ISAAMAN,  
Garrick Club,  
Garrick Street, WC2,  
November 1.

From Mr Bernard Beatty

Sir, You inform us that Byron called Keats's work "piss-a-bed poetry". He did so but there is no evidence for, nor the remotest plausibility in, the nasty gibe that this was done "from jealousy".

Byron detested cant and *schmalz*, and he respected fact. Your third leader seems to be composed of equal doses of cant and *schmalz*, plus an unfounded innuendo.

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD BEATTY  
(Academic Editor,  
The Byron Journal),  
The University of Liverpool,  
Department of English Languages,  
Liverpool L69 3BX,  
November 1.

### Stout defence of the Court Circular

From the Secretary of the Constitutional Monarchy Association

Sir, Even those of us who may regret the simplification of the wording of the Court Circular (Diary, October 26; letters, October 26, November 1) should not lose sight of the fact that the important thing is *what* is written, and not *how* it is written.

It is also essential that the Court Circular should record the official engagements of all the Royal Family, including the "junior" members such as Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, whose hard work is too little known by the general public.

People who believe the Queen and her family lead lives of indolence should be encouraged to read the unrelenting demands of duty revealed in the circular, and reminded that this is just the tip of the iceberg. Not included are the hours the Queen spends on state papers — "doing the boxes" — the preparation of speeches, studying of reports from charities and other causes, and planning for events at home and abroad.

However the Circular is worded, long may it continue to keep us informed about the vital role our monarchy plays in the life of the nation.

Yours faithfully,  
DONALD FOREMAN, Secretary,  
The Constitutional Monarchy Association,  
PO Box 430, Chingford, E4,  
November 2.

### UN as peacekeepers

From the Director of the UN Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sir, In the course of Mr Grahame Keating's attack on the UN (letter, October 31) he refers to the \$1.5 billion per year spent on one operation (presumably Unprofor) as "hugely expensive". But what would be the cost to us if the conflict in Bosnia spread to other parts of Europe?

I share Mr Keating's concern about the use of humanitarian aid to feed the warring factions, but this tends to happen with any relief operation, whether or not the UN is involved. What we need to consider is whether we are prepared to allow innocent civilians to starve in order to deny food to soldiers.

The collapse of safe areas was a very dark hour for those national politicians and commentators who demanded their establishment but then refused to listen to the warnings from UN staff that they would collapse without sufficient troops on the

From Sir Desmond Heap

Sir, So the wording of the Court Circular is to be made more "user-friendly" and to be "pruned and made more appealing". I never read such nonsense in all my life.

Let us be clear about where all these sloppy, sentimental suggestions are taking us. Basically they seek one thing and one thing only — to get us all like each other which, thank Heaven, we are not. They seek to spread familiarity.

And what did familiarity do (as my mother taught me to ask)? The answer is simple. Familiarity bred contempt; it still does.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,  
DESMOND HEAP,  
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1,  
November 1.

From Mr Denis Christian

Sir, On the assumption that the Court Circular is published as much for the information of one's subjects as for any glorification why, I wonder, is it that an occasion in which a lord lieutenant is involved has his title before his name, but a deputy lieutenant his name before his title?

These things are important in my classless society.

Yours faithfully,  
DENIS CHRISTIAN,  
37 Swanscombe Road, Chiswick, W4,  
November 1.

ground. The UN originally asked for 35,000 troops to deter attacks on civilians in the safe areas but ultimately received only 7,000.

Since the UN needs to focus its peacekeeping effort on other more horrific but less "newsworthy" conflicts outside Europe, there is a case for Nato to assume responsibility for the military aspects of the Bosnian peace plan. However, Nato has very little experience of the political aspects of peacekeeping, such as monitoring human rights, observing elections and funding economic reconstruction.

If the peace implementation plan currently does not properly address these issues it is unlikely that the Bosnian conflict will be permanently resolved. Most responsible commentators agree that there is no military solution to this tragic war.

Yours sincerely,  
MALCOLM HARPER,  
Director,  
United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,  
3 Whitehall Court, SW1,  
November 1.

### Bye, bye blackbird

From Mrs Joan Atkins

Sir, We have been hearing a great deal about the strange behaviour of birds in this unusual year (letter, October 28), but where are they? Certainly not here. For the past month and more I have been enjoying a magnificent display of red berries on the *Pyraeantha* outside my kitchen window, due no doubt in part to the exceptional summer but also to the complete absence of blackbirds.

Usually almost before the last berries have ripened they arrive and demolish the lot, but not this year. I don't know whether to be glad or sorry, but I would like to know the reason.

Yours faithfully,  
JOAN O. E. ATKINS,  
21 Courtyards,  
Little Shelford, Cambridge.

Weekend Money letters, page 38

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

### Remembrance of civil sacrifice, too

From Field Marshal Sir John Stanier

Sir, Many of us will recall with pride the scenes of commemoration and celebration of VE Day and VJ Day. These great occasions seemed to draw a line under our recollections of the two world wars, encouraging us to forget old enmities and look forward to a new century of reconciliation. But Remembrance Sunday urges us never to forget the sacrifices of the past.

Naturally, none of us who are older will ever forget the loss of friends and relatives in the two great wars; but to the younger generations the sacrifices of grandparents and great-grandparents become increasingly difficult to share and understand.

What is not difficult for most of us to remember is the great number of servicemen who have laid down their lives in lesser campaigns since 1945.

But it has not only been those in the Armed Forces who have sacrificed their lives. Every day we hear of brave men and women who have given their own lives in the protection or saving of others. These are notably in the police, the fire services, the lifeboat service, mountain rescue teams and mine rescue workers, to name but a few.

Might it not be timely, from 1996, to widen the focus of Remembrance Sunday to include all those selfless people who have in one role or another made the supreme sacrifice for others?

Whether they were sailors, soldiers or airmen fighting for our country, or men and women in other uniforms or none defending the lives of others, surely it is right that their sacrifices should be remembered, and that their names, also, should live for evermore.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN STANIER  
(Constable),  
HM Tower of London, EC3,  
November 2.

### Future of Synod

From the Reverend Donald C. Flatt

Sir, In 1986 the late Dean of St Albans, Peter Moore, edited a book called *The Synod of Westminster, Do We Need It?* At least one of the contributors to this thoughtful publication declared that the time had come to call a halt to continual revision and that most churchmen were sick and tired of the mania for change.

If more attention had been paid to this important book at the time of its publication the Church of England would not be in the sad position it is today.

It may now be too late; but the Church of England would benefit greatly, in my opinion, if the Synod could be closed down for a number of years and the representatives returned to their respective parishes; they could then be directed to proclaim the Gospel and endeavour to heal those in need.

Yours faithfully,  
DONALD C. FLATT,  
The Stables Cottage,  
Lamb Court,  
Dulverton, Somerset,  
November 1.

### Death of the Duke

From Miss Jackie St Clair

Sir, I write firstly to express my sincere condolences to the family of the late Duke of Northumberland, who passed away earlier this week after many years of ill health (obituary, November 2). Those who knew him are deeply saddened by the loss of such a truly kind and intelligent man.

I also feel compelled to set the record straight, as speculation elsewhere in the media regarding the nature of my friendship with the Duke has escalated out of all proportion. In the short time I knew him we became friends and he is already missed enormously; however, there was never any romance whatsoever between us, nor did he at any time propose marriage to me.

Perhaps his family may now be left to grieve with dignity and peace.

Yours faithfully,  
J. ST CLAIR,  
c/o Henri Brandman & Co.,  
43 Queen Anne Street, W1,  
November 3.

### French nuclear tests

From Mr Ronald C. Geddes

Sir, The Prime Minister supports the French nuclear tests on the ground that scientific advice made it impossible not to go ahead (report, October 31). We can't let such an argument be used in every decision we make.

There is surely also plenty of scientific evidence that nuclear tests damage the environment.

Yours faithfully,  
RONALD GEDDES,  
2 Castle Street, Cupar, Fife.

### Silence is golden

From Ms Janet Mattacks

Sir, "... don't complain and don't explain". If only the ubiquitous Stephen Fry (reports, November 2) had taken the advice instead of merely quoting it.

Yours faithfully,  
JANET MATTACKS,  
22 Hampden Close,  
North Weald, Epping, Essex,  
November 2.











## NEWS

## West gives evidence from grave

Frederick West's voice echoed from beyond the grave around a hushed courtroom yesterday as his taped confessions to murder were played in the defence of his widow, Rosemary.

In a dispassionate voice he admitted murdering and dismembering his daughter Heather and other young women, most of whose names he could not remember. He claimed he alone was responsible for the killings. Pages 1, 6, 7

## Yeltsin loses grip on power

President Yeltsin's illness loosened his grip on power further yesterday, when he temporarily ceded further responsibility for Russian security and foreign policy to Viktor Chernomyrdin, his Prime Minister. Pages 1, 12, 21

## Scotsman sold

The Scotsman, one of Scotland's most prestigious newspapers, has been sold to David and Frederick Barclay, the twins who own The European, the Ritz and the Howard Hotel. The price is around £90 million. Page 1

## Bonfire fun

Demand for fireworks was expected to rocket after forecasters predicted a clear and dry bonfire night. Page 1

## Heir faces deportation

A 19-year-old former Nepalese mountain boy, who is the heir to an 18th-century English castle and a £1.5 million fortune, is facing deportation from his stately home. Page 3

## Labour changes

Labour's ruling National Executive Committee will approve a deal to end direct trade union sponsorship of individual MPs. Page 5

## Young Tories make up to voters

Forty young Conservatives will spend the weekend at a hotel being taught how to dress and avoid gaffes, to woo voters. The men will be told how to apply make-up and pluck their eyebrows. Page 1

## Prince buys Asprey

Asprey, the Bond Street jeweller to the Queen, is being sold for £243.5 million to Prince Jefri Bolkiah of Brunei, brother of the Sultan of Brunei. Pages 8, 20, 25

## Extradition order

Argentina's supreme court ruled that Erich Priebke, 82, a former Gestapo captain, should be extradited to Italy for trial on charges of overseeing the massacre of 335 civilians outside Rome in 1944. Page 13

## Stars are born

Unprecedented snapshots of newborn stars peering out of immense gas clouds some 7,000 light years from Earth have been taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. Page 14

## Killer typhoon

The most powerful typhoon to hit the Philippines for years killed 66 people, sent more than 200,000 fleeing from their homes and left millions without power. Page 15



With Spring in their steps, models show off next year's pre-summer fashion collections in New York

## OPINION

**KREMLIN SICKNESS**  
President Yeltsin is more seriously ill than his aides have permitted the world to know. But Chernomyrdin has proved himself a cautious, reliable conciliator. Page 20

**BEFORE THE EMPIRE**  
The Queen signed a strongly-phrased apology to the Mairis. Few statements of this kind have ever been made by the Crown. Pages 14, 21

**SAO MIDDLESBROUGH**  
Although his game is more caviar than gravy, Juninho looks just like the Bisto Kid. Page 21

## PAPERS

Sometimes Presidents are forced into the bunker. Mr and Mrs Clinton built theirs. — *The New York Times*

## COLUMNS

**Simon Jenkins: Gives Shakespeare the right of reply, in his own words, to the Prince of Wales's book of favourite extracts. Page 20**

**Anne McElvoy: The tide of separatism based on gender exclusivity or sexual orientation seems to be turning fast. Page 20**

## OBITUARIES

**Sir Andrew Crichton, shipping industrialist: Alan Bush, composer: Brian Murphy, head of the Press and Information Department of the TUC: Phil Shipley, broadcasting executive. Page 23**

## LETTERS

Humane prison policy threatens security: neglect of Keats House. Page 21

## BUSINESS

**British Airways: After almost 13 years on the board of British Airways, Sir Colin Marshall is to step down next month as the airline's chief executive. He will be replaced on January 1 by Robert Ayling, BA's managing director since 1993. Page 25**

**Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 22.6 points to close at 3500.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.5 to 84.3 after a fall from \$1.5809 to \$1.5800 and DM2.2438 to DM2.2365. Page 28**

## ARTS

**Toy films: Never mind the quality of Hollywood's blockbuster films for children: just feel the weight of the merchandise that goes with them. Page 17**

## SPORT

**Football: European football authorities are to lobby governments because they fear the final judgment on the Jean-Marc Bosman transfer will split the game. Page 48**

**Host city: Manchester has been confirmed as host city for the Commonwealth Games in 2002. It will be the first time since 1934 that England has staged the event. Page 48**

**Rugby union: The game is becoming paranoid, with clubs looking over their shoulders, fearful of where the next threat to their supremacy may come from. Page 42**

## CAR 35

**On the Brighton road: the greatest veteran car run is a family affair**

## SATURDAY MAGAZINE

Howard Hodgkin: Joanna Pitman discovers a wealth of colour beneath the artist's frosty public persona. Page 8

Out of steam: India's steam trains have run out of puff in the battle against diesel. Christopher Thomas reports. Page 36



## WEEKEND

**Temples: A lesson for India in Neasden: Tunku Varadarajan on temples of delight. Page 1**

**Fireworks: There'll be fireworks tonight when they burn the Pope. Page 4**

**Cellmate: The friendship between Nelson Mandela and his jailer. Page 15**

## 10 15

**The weekly magazine for young Times readers**  
Bond's back: the special effects that make GoldenEye spectacular. Page 6

**Win an eight video collection of the best of Bond. Page 3**

**Recommended: the best books, music, games and films. Page 10**

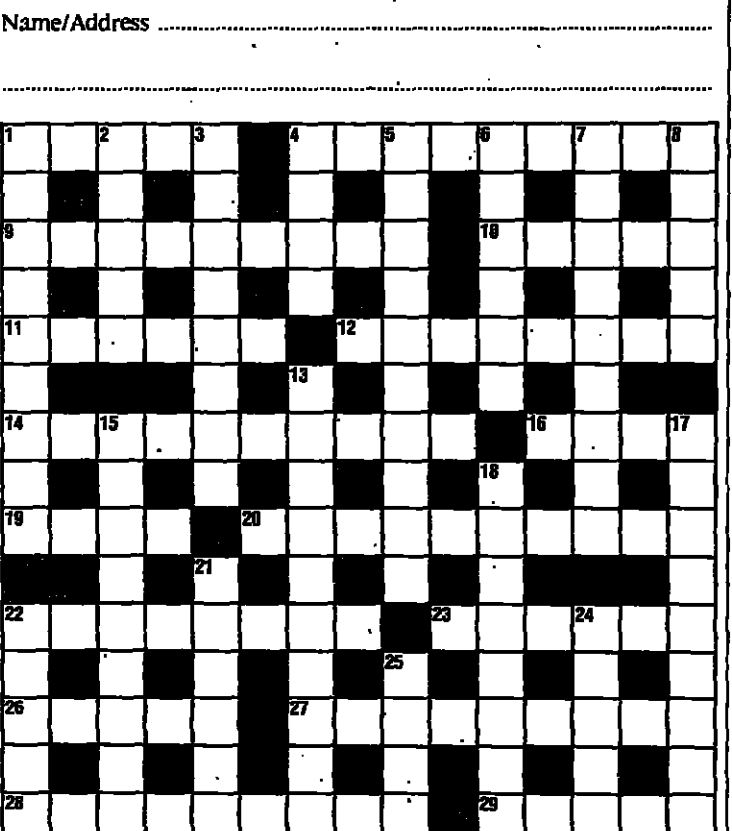
## VISION

**The 7-day television and radio guide**  
Cover story: Francis Urquhart is back in *The Final Cut*, the final series featuring Ian Richardson as the parliamentary archplotter. Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

**Booked: The Booker Prize live on Tuesday, BBC2, 8.10pm**

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,004

**KROCKANDO**  
A bottle of Krockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.



- ACROSS**
- Ruffie the riding fraternity (5).
  - Crook earns his remuneration finally working routinely (2,7).
  - Speak immediately, and at length, about it — repetitiously (4,2,3).
  - Jonathan, for instance, first thrown off by spotted horse (5).
  - Stubbornly hard to get on, like a slipper (6).
  - Frozen bird, we hear, is the issue here (8).
  - Judge must be, as a precaution (4,2,4).
  - Stagnate is missing its head — a bit of a blenship (4).
  - Cultivate a little corn by river (4).
  - Shows disposition to accept less (10).
  - Recent having to ask Barnaby (8).
  - Latin-American flower girl noted for aggression (6).
  - Preoccupation with tiny note (5).
  - Entry is restricted in foreign domains (9).
  - Governor takes up residence, representing the Crown, perhaps (9).
  - Subject taken by other people — English (5).
- DOWN**
- Short runs in America sort of suit these stars (4,5).
  - Silent picture (5).
  - One fool caught by ruse almost prophetic (8).
  - It's essential to make their "One club" (4).
  - Retire, or meet with dismissal (3,4,1).
  - Note to friend, indeed! (6).
  - Observed religious being taken in by spurious miracle (9).
  - 19 enforcing discipline (5).
  - Mischievous person (i.e. a monkey) accorded mercy (10).
  - Sharing out US city creates earthly paradise (7,2).
  - Kind of horse one trains hopelessly (9).
  - Small animal, a burrowing rodent, found round Kent area (8).
  - Excavate a trench, raised and enlarged (6).
  - City houses Conservative group (5).
  - Country's unknown river (5).
  - Book about man of straw, primarily (4).

## Solution to Puzzle No 19,998

CHAMP AUTOMATIC  
BROOKLYN  
PROSECUTE THANE  
BUREAU  
EXTRA ON THE SPOT  
A T U O I  
REJOINS PEGASUS  
E E O A T U  
ROTUNDA ARTISAN  
S N S E D  
THERSITES CAMEO  
T H T U R A W  
MATER GERFALCON  
E E U U E S A E  
SURFBOURNE HEMER

## Solution to Puzzle No 20,003

SUPPRESS SCARAB  
U O E T G O U R  
BURMA ATAGLANE  
T T L R U A I W  
RHEUMATIC NACRE  
A R E H D R  
CHAMBER ODESSA  
T G A R P F  
SENSOR MASSALL  
A T O A C O  
REGAL LIGHTYEAR  
C A L L O I S E  
HALF CROWN MOURN  
E O A N E O I C  
RAIPINE BRUNETTE

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: H. Fellows, Shepton Mallet, Somerset; E. J. Bushell, Oakland Vale, Wensleydale; D. Clements, Peckham, Suffolk; L. Williams, St Helier, Jersey; H. O'Donnell, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

OTIS NEWS PAPER LIMITED, 1995. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at Virginia Street, London E1 9NN. Telephone 0171-782 5000 and at Knowlsey Park Industrial Estate, Killybeg Road, Wierdown, L14 9HA, telephone 0151-546 2000. Saturday, November 4, 1995. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

## TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code

Greater London	701
East Angles	702
East Midlands	703
East of England	704
East of Scotland	705
East of Wales	706
East of Yorkshire	707
East of Wales	708
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East of Wales	730

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
Area within M25	733
Area within M25	734
Area within M25	735
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Area within M25	739
Area within M25	740
Area within M25	741
Area within M25	742
Area within M25	743
Area within M25	744
Area within M25	745
Area within M25	746
Area within M25	747
Area within M25	748
Area within M25	749
Area within M25	750

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY		TOMORROW	
Sun sets	Moon rises	Sun sets	Moon rises
4:29 pm	3:17 pm	4:29 pm	3:17 pm
Full moon November 7			
London 4:29 pm to 7:00 am			
Bristol 4:39 pm to 7:10 am			
Edinburgh 4:27 pm to 7:21 am			
Manchester 4:32 pm to 7:15 am			
Perthshire 4:35 pm to 7:18 am			

## HIGH TIDES

TODAY		TOMORROW	
AM	PM	AM	PM
11:11	6:08	11:48	7:25
11:28	6:11	11:58	7:30
11:45	6:14	12:08	7:35
12:02	6:17	12:18	7:40
12:19	6:20	12:28	7:45
12:36	6:23	12:38	7:50
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Y NOVEMBER 4 1995  
DAY TIMES



MELVYN MARCKUS 26

Our City Editor  
on what's in  
store at Asprey

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headhunter



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Bewitching elf  
takes centre stage  
in Middlesbrough

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ASSETS AT  
SHELL CENTRE  
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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4 1995

## Cash card fraudsters strike at Abbey again

By ROBERT MILLER

FRAUDSTERS using bogus cash machine cards have struck at Abbey National for the second time in a year. Other high street banks and building societies, including the Halifax, have also fallen victim to a gang of three to four people, bringing total losses close to £3 million.

The Abbey last night confirmed that it is working closely with the Metropolitan Police and credit card squad. It is understood that the identities of the fraudsters, who use spy camcorders to film unsuspecting customers using the cash machines, are known to the police.

One long-lens camera, usually placed in a building opposite the cash machine, films the front of the card while the other zooms in on the Pin identification number being tapped in. When blown up on a large-screen TV the details are easy to distinguish and these are then transferred to the magnetic strip of a bogus card, which is used to plunder the account.

In the present case the gang has not yet been apprehended although arrests are believed to be imminent. Earlier this year police arrested and charged more than half a dozen people from two gangs for a similar scam on Abbey National and Royal Bank of Scotland, among others.

A trial is expected to start early next year. It is believed that those involved in the present fraud have connections with those already arrested. Scotland Yard declined to comment.

As a result of the latest outbreak of cash machine fraud, Abbey National, which has to date lost £1.2 million, has bought forward the replacement programme for its 800,000 Abbeylink cardholders as "a matter of urgency". Chris Wernham, of the

Abbey, said that all victims had been compensated for a growing figure within the overall £97 million lost in plastic card fraud.

## Cordiant to charge £55m of issue cash

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

A LARGE chunk of the cash that Cordiant, the former Saatchi & Saatchi, hopes to raise in its rights issue will be absorbed in disposal charges and severance pay.

Such exceptional items will strip out £55 million while Bob Seelert, the chief executive who was recruited in July and who has organised the 1-for-1 rights issue at 60p a share, is in line for a bonus of £100,000 for the completion of the issue by the end of the year.

Cordiant also gave warning that some further "re-engineering" of its operations may lead to further exceptional charges.

The widely expected rights issue, priced at a discount of 36 per cent to yesterday's opening share price, will raise £126.6 million after underwriting expenses of £6.4 million. The issue has been fully underwritten by SBC Warburg and UBS.

The cheapness of the issue price puzzled many analysts, although a number welcomed the offer as a move to propel the cash-strapped company into a stronger position.

One said: "I just can't imagine why it has been priced at this level. There had been some feeling that Cordiant could possibly have made the offer at a premium. But if it



Bob Seelert, chief executive, stands to gain a £100,000 bonus for the early completion of the issue

## Marshall to step down as BA chief executive

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

AFTER almost 13 years on the board of British Airways, Sir Colin Marshall is to step down next month as the airline's chief executive. He will be replaced on January 1 by Robert Ayling, who has been BA's managing director since 1993.

Sir Colin, who will be 62 in a few days' time, remains as chairman in a non-executive capacity. His new role, which will involve advising the board on developing alliances with other airlines and raising the airline's profile in government and European circles, is expected to occupy two or three days a week.

The announcement surprised the City, and shares in BA rose 10p to 475p yesterday.

Sir Colin joined BA as chief executive in 1983 and was subsequently appointed deputy chairman, taking over as chairman in February 1993 when Lord King stepped down.

### WEEKEND MONEY

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on a new move in the pensions scandal

### BUDGET 95

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### BANKS

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A shift of allegiance. The benefits of switching accounts

## Plea for help as number of firms going bust rises

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) yesterday charged the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise with forcing companies into liquidation and urged them to take a more helpful view.

The comments came after figures showing that company insolvencies have risen again in the third quarter, confirming the slowdown in economic growth. There were 3,919 company insolvencies in England and Wales, a 12.6 per cent increase on the second quarter but still nearly 10 per cent lower than the third quarter last year, according to seasonally adjusted figures from the Department of Trade and Industry's Insolvency Service.

Raw, unadjusted figures tell the same story, with a large rise in insolvencies between the second and third quarters. This reverses the pattern of last year, when the number of insolvencies fell between the two periods.

The BCC also noted that a 30 per cent rise in compulsory liquidations was a serious concern. Richard Brown, deputy director-general of the BCC, said: "Typically, it will be the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise forcing companies into liquidation. We would urge them to take a broader view to assist with company survival."

He said that a rise in the number of companies going bust had a serious knock-on effect on the rest of the economy, with late and bad debts and increasing uncertainty undermining business confidence.

However, individual insolvencies fell 3 per cent, compared with the second quarter, and 14.3 per cent on the third quarter in 1994.

## Asprey payoff for Attallah

By SARAH BAGNALL

PRINCE JEFRI, brother to the Sultan of Brunei, the world's richest man, plans to invest heavily in Asprey, the financially troubled luxury goods group he is offering to buy for £243.5 million.

Prince Jefri has offered shareholders in the Queen's Jeweller 250p a share. John Asprey, the retailer's chairman, and his family, who together own 52 per cent of the group, have accepted the offer. However, he has agreed to retain a 10 per cent holding in Amedeo UK, the company set up to acquire Asprey. The

250p offer is a significant premium to Thursday's closing share price of 127p, but far short of the 425p that the shares commanded in 1989. The shares rose 119p, to 246p, on the news.

Asprey said Naim Attallah had retired as chief executive after 21 years with the group and would receive compensation for loss of office to reflect his one-year contract. Mr Attallah, who was due to retire later this year, earned £309,000 in the year to March 31.

Tan Dahl, Mr Attallah's replacement, who joined on September 1, and Mr Asprey will be chief executive and chairman, respectively, of Amedeo UK. Prince Jefri will nominate two other directors.

Mr Dahl said that Prince Jefri had approached Mr Asprey with a view to taking a minority interest in Asprey in the summer, but discussions had developed into takeover talks in the past few weeks.

Mr Dahl, who is completing a five-year strategic plan for Asprey, said that the takeover would give it the funding it needed to grow. He said: "Prince Jefri is committed to

the business. He intends to make a substantial investment in the group, which will be significant relative to turnover." Asprey had sales of £177.8 million last year.

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LATIVE TRAVEL



# Why buy Asprey's baubles when you can buy the shop?

Enter Prince Jefri of Brunei, the chief executive of Asprey, who, for many years, is reputed to have wielded a Svengali-like influence over John Asprey, chairman of the Bond Street-based jewellers.

Much is known about Mr Attallah; less about Prince Jefri. This state of affairs is unlikely to change markedly for two reasons. The first is that Mr Attallah, the Palestinian socialite who owns Quartet Books and has an interest in the *Literary Review*, is not averse to a little publicity; as might be expected of someone who wears two watches and sports (on purpose) differently coloured socks.

The second reason is that the Sultan of Brunei, Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah Muizaddin Wadatulah, is averse to publicity; as might be expected of the world's richest man with an estimated fortune of more than £20 billion. The Sultan, it may be recalled, did not enjoy the pub-

licity that surrounded the alleged use of his funds in Mohamed Al Fayed's controversial £615 million takeover of House of Fraser in the mid-Eighties. Quite what role, if any, the Sultan has played in the £240 million Asprey deal is not readily apparent, but it can safely be assumed that the Sultan's dislike of inordinate publicity will not have been lost on his younger brother, His Royal Highness Prince Jefri Bolkiah.

Although, as *The Times* predicted yesterday, Prince Jefri has emerged as the purchaser of Asprey, the role of a Prince in purveying jade, rubies, bejewelled daggers and the like, all wrapped up in Asprey's splendid purple paper, is unlikely to fall into the "hands on" category. There was no sign of the prince, understood to be in Brunei, when Asprey unveiled the latest turn of events in its colourful history.

The message from John Asprey, whose family trusts control 51.7 per cent of Asprey's equity, was: "My family and I

have known Prince Jefri and his family for many years. His ownership of Asprey will enhance the style and status of the group and the Asprey family is delighted to continue to play an important role in its future." He added: "Prince Jefri shares our commitment to the standards and service of the flagship business. His financial support will enable the development of all our businesses and brands to be accelerated, particularly in international markets."

Mr Asprey, presumably taking a leaf out of Prince Jefri's book, was not readily visible at the press *tête-à-tête* that took place over a cup of tea yesterday at the St James's Park offices of Hambro Magan, the merchant banking boutique that advises Asprey. It fell, instead, on Ian Dahl, successor to Mr Attallah, to chat about jewellery in general and princes in particular with the likes of myself. Mr Dahl, the former head of Sportsgirl, an Australian fashion retailer, was



MELVYN MARCKUS

appointed heir-apparent to Mr Attallah last August, although no handover period was specified.

Mr Dahl let it be known that he was "absolutely delighted" with the latest turn of events which, he emphasised, was "good news" for everybody. Mr Dahl did not elaborate on precisely who everybody was, but it would seem safe to assume that shareholders and the Asprey

family are perceived as major beneficiaries. Also good news, presumably, for Prince Jefri and, of course, Mr Dahl.

Mr Dahl also stressed that he was "totally unaware" of such developments when he joined Asprey which, he insisted, was still "totally viable" as a plc. It emerges that talks between Mr Asprey and the Sultan's family started some two months ago and subsequently moved on to a higher plane when Prince Jefri's initial interest in taking a minority stake gave way to discussions regarding a full-scale takeover.

The City has been highly critical of the policy of acquisitive expansion embarked on by Mr Attallah in recent years. The acquisition of Garrard and Mappin & Webb for £75 million from Sears in 1990 was followed by the £23 million purchase of Watches of Switzerland from Ratners two years later. Les Ambassadeurs, the watch and jewellery chain, was acquired for £10.8 million in 1993 when

Asprey also bought Ronald A. Lee, the antiques specialist. Other ventures taken under Asprey's wing include Rene Boivin, the Paris jeweller and Tomasz Starwinski, the design house.

Might Mr Dahl be inclined to focus on Asprey, Garrard and Mappin & Webb and "dump the rest" I asked, exuding my own inimitable charm. "Absolutely not," said Mr Dahl, who proceeded to educate me about the charms of Watches of Switzerland which, in his words, represented a "fantastic business".

Although Mr Dahl categorically denied any suggestion that Prince Jefri's intervention smacked of a "rescue" in the wake of Asprey's £9.8 million loss for 1994-95, he admitted that a cash injection, at this point in time, held "certain attractions". At this point in time, mid-year profits for 1995-96 are down from £3 million to £1.2 million. Mr Dahl and his advisers refused to comment as to how much Prince

Jefri envisaged injecting into Asprey over the next few years — a silence that leaves one to guess at a further £20 million to £30 million commitment.

Sultans and their families do not, of course, tend to become involved in anything as vulgar as a takeover battle. Amadeo UK, the offshoot of Jersey-based Amadeo, has received "irrevocable" undertakings from the Asprey family in respect of their 51.7 per cent interest — 10 per cent of which will be swapped for equity in Amadeo UK. John Asprey and Mr Dahl will emerge as chairman and chief executive respectively of the UK vehicle. The prince's representatives have yet to be appointed.

The offer of 250p cash is well below Asprey's all-time high of more than 400p but, in view of the 54p low seen earlier this year, not a few shareholders will be distinctly relieved at Prince Jefri's appearance. After all, why buy the baubles when you can afford to buy the shop?

## Sumitomo to take over Daiwa Bank operations in US

By GEORGE SIVELL

AMERICA'S Federal Reserve yesterday gave its blessing to plans by Daiwa Bank, Japan's tenth largest bank, to allow its US operations to be absorbed by its rival Sumitomo.

The move follows an order by American banking authorities for Daiwa to shut down its operations in the US in the wake of an apparent \$1.1 billion scheme to cover up huge bond losses in New York and a 24-point indictment alleging conspiracy to defraud the Federal Reserve.

It was revealed yesterday that Daiwa first asked Sumitomo to support its US operations on October 9 after the Japanese bank began to fear the possibility of swingeing penalties being imposed by American authorities over the bond losses.

It was also revealed that the Bank of England had found no irregularities in an inquiry jointly conducted with the

Securities and Futures Authority into the London branch of Daiwa Bank. The Bank of England said yesterday: "We have conducted an investigation into Daiwa Bank London under Section 39 of the Banking Act. There was no evidence of irregularities of the kind that affected Daiwa Bank in the US or anything that would constitute a threat to depositors in the UK."

The action against Daiwa was the first against an overseas bank by the US authorities since the Bank of Credit and Commerce International was shut down in July 1990.

Yesterday, the Federal Reserve said that Sumitomo could absorb Daiwa's US operations before expiry of the 90-day deadline to shut down. In the meantime, Daiwa said it is to fight the criminal charges. If found guilty, the bank faces penalties of up to \$1.3 billion.

The Daiwa affair raises questions of bank regulation around the world and strains relations between Japan and the US, when US liquidity may be needed to ease any further strains that emerge in Japan's troubled banking system.

Last night, a senior American banking monitor said that he thought Daiwa represented the problem of an individual institution and was not a symptom of a wider problem.

Jim Leach, chairman of the House Banking Subcommittee, said: "While this may symbolise certain problems in transparency in the Japanese banking system, this is a movement against an individual bank in very much the same terms as an American bank would have been moved against." He believes the Bank of Japan and the Japanese financial system have sufficient resources to deflect any systemic risk.



Howard Sims takes over as chief executive of the new Cavaghan & Gray Group

## Struggling Dalepak and Cavaghan merge

By ROBERT BOYD

DALEPAK, the troubled Yorkshire frozen food manufacturer which supplies the likes of Tesco and Asda, is to merge with Cavaghan & Gray, the private chilled food company.

The move values Cavaghan & Gray at approximately £43.4 million, compared with Dalepak's market value of £12.3 million. The new enlarged group will be called Cavaghan & Gray Group. Howard Sims, Cavaghan & Gray's chief executive, will become chief executive of the enlarged group.

Dalepak, currently showing a loss, proposes to raise £13 million by way of an issue of up to 14.3 million new Dalepak shares at 105p each. The offer is 31 new Dalepak shares for every 25 existing shares.

Mr Sims said: "There is a large demand for capital in the food industry and we have to keep investing. In the past we have had to borrow, so this merger is ultimately the way forward."

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## Trial breaks early for 'tired' Kevin Maxwell

THE Maxwell trial adjourned early yesterday after Kevin Maxwell declared himself "knackered" from three weeks in the witness box.

Nearly half-an-hour before the court's normal rising time, Alan Suckling, QC, prosecuting, told Mr Justice Phillips: "It has been drawn to my attention that Mr Maxwell has been in the box all the week — I don't know if he is tired," Kevin said "I am knackered", to which the judge said they could have a slightly earlier weekend.

During the day, Kevin said

a lie he had admitted telling to the Bank of Nova Scotia about the status of shares being used as security for a foreign exchange deal had become "a huge millstone around my neck".

Kevin, 36, denies conspiring with his father to defraud the pension funds by misusing £100 million-worth of Swiss shares. He, his brother Ian, 39, and Larry Trachtenberg, 42, deny a similar charge concerning £22 million-worth of shares in Teva, another Israeli company. The trial was adjourned until Monday.

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Denmark Kr	9.32	8.52
Finland Mk	7.33	6.88
France Fr	7.51	7.21
Germany Dr	2.40	2.19
Greece Dr	380.00	380.00
Hong Kong \$	12.85	11.85
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Shk	5.1700	4.8200
Italy Lire	2825.00	2470.00
Japan Yen	178.00	162.00
Malta	0.597	0.542
Netherlands Gld	2.271	2.441
New Zealand \$	2.55	2.33
Norway Kr	10.50	9.70
Portugal Esc	247.50	228.00
S Africa Rd	16.00	15.00
Spain Ptas	200.50	187.50
Sweden Kr	11.12	10.32
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.79
Turkey Lira	refer	7763.0
USA \$	1.678	1.548

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### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Costs of equality action 'can be high'

EQUAL opportunity policies for business are compatible with economic efficiency, leading equality campaigners said yesterday. However, although the Government's Equal Opportunities Commission emphasised the business case for equal treatment, it acknowledged in a new research study on the economics of equal opportunities that the cost of implementing such policies could be high.

Kamlesh Bahl, the commission's chairwoman, said that although the ethical case for equal opportunities still formed the core of the argument in favour, it was now "legitimate" to consider the economics of the issue, with a "groundswell" among employers for examining it that way. Commission leaders will put the case for equal opportunities directly to employers at a conference to be held next month, which will be addressed by Padraig Flynn, the European Commission's Social Affairs Commissioner.

## Rover recruitment drive

ROVER, the car manufacturer acquired by BMW in 1994, is to recruit 300 specialist engineers by next spring, it was announced yesterday. It brings the total number of new jobs announced this year to 4,000. By the end of next year, Rover will have increased its workforce worldwide to more than 40,000 — the highest level for more than five years. John Towers, chief executive, said volume sales were still up 4 per cent worldwide in the first nine months of this year.

## Ciro extends offer

CIRO Holdings has received acceptances in respect of 34 per cent of Country Casuals, the fashion retailer, for its £27 million hostile bid. The offer, headed by John Shannon, former chief executive of Country Casuals, has extended the 140p-a-share offer until November 16. Acceptances include Mr Shannon's 19 per cent stake and Philips & Drew Fund Management's 13 per cent interest, committed at the beginning of the bid. The shares were unchanged at 140p.

## Alliance Resources slips

SHARES in Alliance Resources fell yesterday from the September suspension price of 4p to 1.5p when trading resumed after the oil and gas exploration company disclosed an \$18.2 million loss in 1995, including \$16.7 million from the revaluation of oil interests in the Valentine field in Louisiana. The company said it was "vigorously" pursuing legal action against John O'Brien, the former chief executive. Mr O'Brien is defending the action.

## UK Safety stumbles

SHARES in UK Safety fell 11p to 19p after the company, which manufactures industrial and military footwear, warned investors that weak demand had caused a shortfall in sales in the nine months to September 30, with a significant impact on profitability and cashflow. The interim dividend of 0.8p a share, already declared, will be paid on December 15, but the payment of a final dividend will be reviewed in the light of final results for 1995.

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: JO CUTMORE

# Top headhunter displays her Prowess

Victoria McKee meets a company chief who altered her working life to suit the needs of her family, staff and clients

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

JO CUTMORE leads the sort of "portfolio" life that she recommends to those who seek her services as a headhunter. "If I'd been an inflexible, fat-cat recruiter, I'd be dead now," she says frankly. "I had to diversify in order to survive." The 42-year-old former head of search and selection at what was Arthur Young, now Ernst & Young, who set up her own company, Jamieson Scott, in 1986, has branched out over the past three years into providing interim managers and non-executive directors for a wide range of public and private sector organisations, as well as into training and advice for both companies and individuals. That comes under the auspices of Prowess, formed three years ago to challenge ProNed.

Just as the profile of the non-executive directors Prowess provides is less conventional than that of ProNed's — "not all fifty-something white males," says Cutmore — so her own working life has become less conventional.

The children find the concept of a holiday with their parents amusing

"We have to accept that people's lives are no longer rigidly structured for life between nine and five, and offer greater flexibility to our clients as well as to our employees," Cutmore says — practising what she preaches with admirable aplomb. A mother of four children aged from two to 11, she hasn't skipped a business beat because of any of them. Her tall, rangy physique helped her to disguise her pregnancies in efficient-looking business clothes until the last few weeks, and she was breastfeeding Bethany, her youngest, when the baby was five days old, on her way to a meeting with the Equal Opportunities Commission in Manchester (whose chief executive she had been asked to find). "It seemed appropriate, somehow, at an EOC meeting, to arrive with nanny and baby in tow," she chuckles. At other times, when it's not appropriate for her hand to be seen rocking the cradle, she claims to be in a meeting.

"You can do that when you work for yourself," she points out, "which is one of the reasons I started my own business when Sam, my first child, was a year old. If I really need to do something with the children, like going to a school sports day, or taking Sam to look around Eton — as I did recently — I know I can do it by writing my reports at night."

Cutmore, who offers the same flexibility to her largely female research staff, many of whom "down tools" at school leaving time and resume work in the evening. "Combining home and business life is something I've become quite adept at, meeting candidates at all times of the day and night — at home, in hotels, in airport lounges, railway stations, anything to accommodate. That is the service which in the search industry is vital."

She equates her company with "Russell Reynolds, Egon Zender, Spencer Stuart — the big international search firms", but

at our weekend cottage in Norfolk. It's only three-and-a-half hours door to door from France to our headquarters in Eaton Square, and we often do it if the job demands it."

But having one secretary whose voice sounds almost exactly like hers gives Cutmore a little extra freedom if she needs it, and the ability to appear to be in two places at once. A typical week, she explains, going through her (on-screen) diary, might be:

Monday, 9am: meeting (with Prowess hat on) with a public sector body's human resources director "keen to release some of his executive directors as non-executive directors in the private sector".

11am: back to the office, as Jamieson Scott, for a meeting with "a very senior military person, coming for personal advice on career redeployment, having left the Army two months ago".

No time for lunch: straight into three interviews with job candidates, lasting until the end of the day.

Tuesday, 9am: meeting with "a man from a major airline, just retired, who, in contrast with the military man on Monday, is embracing his new portfolio career". A late-morning meeting was followed by lunch with a human resources director thinking of joining Cutmore's company.

2pm: off to the Institute of Management for their Project Check-a-Board — again

claims that Jamieson Scott can be more competitive with fees because of its comparatively low overheads, with a modest headquarters at a Belgravia address, and staff who work in clusters in Essex and Chiswick and also, like Cutmore, from their homes. "We cut down on overhead frills, and spend the majority of our fees on research. We don't rely on databases — most is fresh research for each assignment, with a database only used for sourcing," she explains.

She won't talk fees, though, except to individual clients, because they — like almost everything else in her business — are a matter of individual negotiation.

Cutmore's husband, Mark Scott, became one of her nine partners five years ago, smoothly enlarging his portfolio after a career in computer software. They enjoy working together as they met while both were tutors at the Financial Training College in London. Married for 13 years, they know each other so well that they can substitute for each other at meetings in an emergency. He was put on standby to do her big speech on non-executive directors for the Institute of Directors this year when she was ill, but in the event she was able to deliver it herself.

"The children find the concept of a holiday with their parents an amusing idea because, invariably, one or the other of us will have to interrupt a period at our house in France to return for a client interview," Cutmore says. "When you work for yourself there is more of a sense of 24-hour commitment, and we have faxes, modems, PCs and several telephone lines in France, where we go in the school vacations, and



Jo Cutmore practises what she preaches with admirable aplomb and manages to balance a hectic work schedule with a full and satisfying family life

as Prowess. "It's a project to look at the skills and competencies needed by individual directors on a board." It took the rest of the afternoon.

Wednesday, 9am: meeting with a big pharmaceutical group to take the brief to help them to find a managing director. "We were hugely relieved to find that the group finance director we put in a year ago has turned out to be a huge success, and that the group chief exec is thrilled with his performance. The reality is that you can do a wonderful search exercise but it's not until a year later, when something like this happens, that you know how successful you've been."

Lunchtime meeting, as Prowess, to discuss a large piece of work for a former public utility board now in the private sector "which has commissioned us to take a tier of its senior management into portfolio careers". Most of Wednesday afternoon is spent planning course outlines and vetting lists of speakers.

Thursday: "My 9am interview didn't turn up so I could make 3,000 extra phone calls — bliss".

11am: meeting with the chief executive of a small listed plc who had heard about Prowess and wanted to recruit a non-executive director through it. "It emerged that he also wanted to become one himself with a blue-chip organisation such as Marks & Spencer, Kingfisher, BA, Cable & Wireless or one of the others with whom we work."

Noon: interview with a corporate finance person for a client looking to recruit one for its Midlands office.

2pm: interview with individual keen to set up a branch of Jamieson Scott for us in Bristol — "a distinct meeting of the minds that looks as if it will go ahead".

Late afternoon: "Picked up the boys at school to go to look at Eton. Had no idea we were in Prince William's house until we were asked if all the publicity would bother us. Should have known it was special from the wonderful upholstery that looked like the Ritz rather than a boys' school like the other houses. I wish Bethany hadn't chosen to fill her nappy in the Master's study. To make up for that trip, I worked late into the night."

Friday, 8am: "Got Sam off for a school trip to the Peak District. 9am: began interviews for the Commissioner for Public Appointments."

"Jamieson Scott was selected by the Cabinet Office to handle the search to fill this post, recommended by the Nolan committee, that reports directly to Parliament."

10.30am: appointment as Prowess with the Department for Education "to discuss how we can assist them to identify quality non-executive directors for their non-departmental public bodies". Lunch is spent with the civil servant wife of a prominent Labour politician.

Afternoon: "Continued calling candidates for the chairman of a buyout bid for a bit of British Rail. Collected kids to drive to Norfolk, where I wrote up the report on the pharmaceutical company and the BR buyout and prepared for a meeting at one of the financial regulators scheduled for Tuesday — Jamieson Scott is assisting them in finding a finance person."

"I also settled in a new housekeeper, arranged for the nanny to go back to France to get married and for my parents

to come back from Norfolk to London to step into the breach." Weekends can be as hectic. "At Sunday lunchtime we were having a small family gathering of 15 or so and I discovered someone had stolen the barbecue. Tried the oven, and it blew. So ended up feeding 15 people with one ancient fondue set."

Cutmore remembers the 1980s as "a period of great satisfaction" in the headhunting profession. "The last five years have been more challenging, but, as a business without major infrastructural costs, it's been very easy to react to market conditions, and the result has been a significant gain," she says. There has also been a significant gain on the family front, with two of her four children born during this period of intensive professional development and diversification. "I have endless admiration for people who can manage that in a big corporate structure," says Cutmore. "I'm sure I couldn't have."

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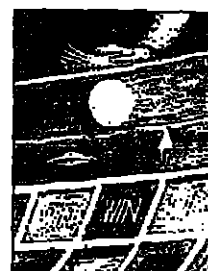








## Taking your chance with Ernie



## **Sara McConnell gives the Chancellor a housing shopping list for Budget action**



**Schroders**  
Schroder Investment Management



Helen Pridham offers a guide to guaranteed investments

# Your money back with interest — if you are careful

No one likes losing money. Seeing the stock market slide and your investments with it can unsettle even the boldest investor. For some people a loss of capital can be devastating.

To avoid this danger, security-minded investors are attracted by "guaranteed" investments which protect against loss. But they must look carefully at what is guaranteed and how it is provided.

Guaranteed products have been particularly popular this year according to Charles Levett-Scrivener, associate director of Towry Law, the financial adviser. "There are two main reasons. A lot of people got their fingers burnt last year when the market fell."

"Although the market has risen again in recent months, it takes longer for people's attitudes to change. The other factor is that most of the money available for investment is coming from retired people who feel they have earned all they are going to earn and are inclined towards investments which do not put their capital at risk."

The appeal of guaranteed returns was illustrated earlier this year when Legal & General's guaranteed corporate-bond Pep attracted £130 million, while other companies not offering guarantees were barely able to attract this amount between them.

Some guaranteed products have been around for years. Gilts and National Savings products come with a government guarantee. Guaranteed income and growth which are issued by insurance companies have also been popular.

But more recently there has been a rapid growth in guaranteed-equity investments using financial derivatives to provide fixed returns linked to the rise in the market, or your money back if it falls. There are now a number of variations on this theme.

Mr Levett-Scrivener says these guaranteed-equity prod-

ucts need very careful scrutiny. He says: "People must be sure they understand what they are buying and how it affects their tax position."

One point investors should bear in mind is that guarantees are often linked to a specific period or anniversary. If you need to cash in early you may get back less than your original investment. So be sure you can lock away your cash for the whole period.

Here are some of the main guaranteed products:

**Gilts:** Issued and guaranteed by Government, no other investment is as secure. Yet they are often overlooked by private investors. They pay a fixed rate of interest for a fixed term which can range from under 5 years to more than 30. Longer-term gilts are currently yielding 8 per cent or more gross. At the end of the term the stock is repaid in full. In the meantime, the price will fluctuate. So if they are sold early or purchased when prices are high you may get

## Investors must be sure that they understand what they are buying and its effect on their tax position

back less than you invested. Details on how to purchase them through the National Savings Stock Register can be obtained from post offices.

**National Savings:** Also backed by Government, National Savings offers a range of products with a guaranteed rate of return and your money back. These include the Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bond which pays a monthly income equivalent to 7.5 per cent p.a. gross, fixed for five years. The minimum investment in the bond is £500, the maximum £20,000. National Savings also offers one of the few products that guarantees that the value of your investment will keep pace with inflation — Index Linked National Savings Certificates.

**Guaranteed Income & Growth Bonds:** These are sold by insurance companies usually for terms of between one and five years. They pay a fixed rate of income or growth and your capital back at the end of the term. Income is normally on a monthly or annual basis. The typical minimum investment required is about £3,000. Rates of up to 7 per cent net of basic rate tax are currently being offered on five-year bonds. To be able to offer these rates, insurance companies have to be in a favourable tax position which means they tend to be small or in a rapidly expanding phase. Among the more recognisable companies currently offering bonds are Abbey Life, Britannia Life and NatWest Life. Investors should bear in mind that the guarantees on these bonds are only as good as the companies themselves, though the Policyholders Protection Act would ensure that investors get back 90 per cent of their money if a company collapsed.

**Guaranteed Equity Bonds:** Normally issued for a five-year term, investors get a percentage of the growth in the FT-SE 100 index (which measures share-price movements of the UK's top 100 companies) or their money back if the index falls. Many bonds guarantee a minimum of 25 per cent over the term even if the index falls.

Mr Levett-Scrivener says the concept is not as simple as it appears. He says: "Frequently it is not 100 per cent, but only 96 per cent of an investment that will be raised in line with the index. No dividend income is added — the FT-SE 100 index is a capital index only. The index level at the term's end is also frequently averaged over the last six or 12 months. This protects against sudden falls, but you won't benefit from sudden rises."

Most are issued by insurance companies that quote returns net of basic rate tax.



But they are also sold by building societies and banks, such as Barclays, currently offering a Guaranteed Equity Savings Bond. They can quote returns before tax. Returns from these products cannot therefore be directly compared and for higher-rate taxpayers the tax treatment is different. Higher-rate taxpayers will normally be better off with insurance-based bonds.

**Guaranteed Equity Income Bonds:** Some guaranteed-equity bonds provide an income as well as a capital return based on market indices. Mr Levett-Scrivener says these need even closer scrutiny. He cites the Financial Assurance Higher Income Bond which is offering an 11 per cent income. "Investors only get their money back if both the FT-SE 100 index and

the S&P 500 Index grow by 9.25 per cent over five years. If either does not achieve the required growth, the capital return will be less than the original investment. At worst, it will be less than 50 per cent."

**Bank & building society products:** Banks and building societies have always guaranteed your capital back but more are now offering fixed-rate term accounts, such as the Halifax's Guaranteed Reserve Account. Recently the trend has been to offer stepped-rate bonds that guarantee rates will rise over a term of three to five years. Investors should not be too impressed by the high rates at the end of the term. Average the rates over the period to get a better figure to compare with flat guaranteed rates. Some Tassas have also been offered with guaran-

teed rates and there will be more in the coming months.

**Peps:** Most Peps are not guaranteed. The only guaranteed-equity Pep on the market is Legal & General's Guaranteed Stockmarket Investment Plan. Investors pay a one-off insurance premium of 4 per cent to cover the capital guarantee and a 2 per cent annual management charge. It invests in a unit trust which aims to track the FT-SE 100 index with a no-loss guarantee at the fifth anniversary. Unlike guaranteed-equity bonds, this Pep also enables investors to enjoy the added benefit of the dividend income from the underlying shares. Also still available is Johnson Fry's Guaranteed Corporate Bond Pep, paying 7 per cent net over 5 years and your capital back at the end of the term.

## A QUESTION OF MONEY

# How safe are bank and society savings?

**Q** How safe is my money in banks and building societies? What compensation can I hope for if things go wrong?

**A** First, a few words of reassurance. The UK's banks and general life assurance companies have a better track record than similar organisations in the United States, according to Paul Greenwood, of actuaries Wm Mercer. "Our life assurance regulations have been taken as a model by many other countries: our banks have had fewer collapses than the US."

Investors are protected by the panoply of regulation established by the Financial Services Act. However, the system is not without flaws, as a number of scandals have revealed. Mr Greenwood cites the issue of custody: who holds the assets of a unit trust group and are they being invested elsewhere?

**Q** I have £15,000 with a society. How safe is it if the society collapses?

**A** Under the Building Societies Act 1986, 90 per cent of savings up to £20,000 per person (ie £18,000) is covered in the event of the society folding. This is the maximum statutory payout and a husband and wife with a joint account would each be covered for this amount. However, the Building Societies Association says there has never been a payout because societies are so carefully regulated. If a society seemed to be in trouble a merger with another society might well be arranged.

**Q** What about the £15,000 I have in my bank? Is that covered too?

**A** Under the Deposit Protection Scheme, customers can get back 90 per cent of their money up to a maximum of £18,000 per person. Interest earned on your account at the time when the deposit becomes due and payable will be protected, subject to the limits of the scheme. In a

liquidation, deposits cease to attract interest immediately, whereas in other cases deposits will normally continue to accrue interest until maturity. The payout is the maximum temporary payout pending the restructuring of the bank. It may not be the final payout. In general, all loans, overdrafts and other amounts owing to the bank will be deducted when calculating the amount of the deposit on which compensation will be paid.

**Q** And my policy with an insurance company?

**A** Individuals who have an insurance policy with a UK authorised insurance company are protected by the Policyholders Protection Act of 1975. You should ask your insurance company whether it is authorised before you pay. The protection scheme guarantees up to 90 per cent of the insurance company's commitment to the policyholder at the time when the company goes into liquidation if the company cannot pay out. You will get 90 per cent of the money you have in your fund at the time. The scheme also covers general insurance for homes, and vehicles.

**Q** How secure is my personal equity plan?

**A** With unit trust Peps, the collapse of a unit trust management company is covered by the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS). You get back up to £48,000 if the management company fails, if the manager stole your money or committed an act of fraud. If you are a husband and wife you each get back £48,000. If you bought your unit trust through an independent financial adviser or tied agent and he put your money in a high-risk fund when you asked for something safe, you may have a claim against the adviser, or against the ICS if the firm rejects the complaint.

MARIANNE CURPHEY



Pelham Crescent, South Kensington, where flat-owners are seeking freeholds

# Charity faces court fight over freehold

One of the leaseholders fighting to buy the freehold of blocks of flats on the South Kensington estate of Henry Smith's Charity is taking the charity to court, claiming that it has failed to follow procedures laid down in the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987. These are intended to give tenants the right of first refusal of the freehold if the existing landlord wants to sell to a third party.

The imminent court battle is the latest twist in the campaign being waged by residents of the South Kensington estate, which takes in such exclusive streets as Pelham Crescent, Onslow Gardens and Lennox Gardens. At issue is the control of the freeholds of their properties.

Other flat-owners are fighting similar battles. Investigations by *The Times* have found that many landlords are flouting the law and threatening huge legal costs

## Sara McConnell on a campaign by flat-owners who feel they are being deprived of new rights

if tenants attempt court action. The Labour Party this week pledged to tighten leasehold enfranchisement laws and enforce sanctions on freeholders. Zipporah Mainwaring, a resident on Smith's Charity's South Kensington estate, will ask the West London County Court this month to order the charity to issue her a section 5 notice under the 1987 Act, immediately giving her first refusal to buy the freehold. Smith's Charity says it will not issue section 5 notices to residents to offer the sale of the freehold until a system of estate management has been agreed between residents and

Cluttons, the charity's agents, approved by a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal and an appeal heard. Cluttons says a scheme is necessary to preserve the integrity of the estate. The tribunal hearing to approve a scheme has been postponed until the new year after initial proposals met with a storm of protest from some residents, who said they would not have control over maintenance costs. Ms Mainwaring says an estate management scheme was not part of Smith's Charity's original sale conditions. She wants to buy the freehold "unencumbered" by an estate management scheme. Cluttons,

agents for Smith's Charity, would say only: "The dispute is over a technical point. Ms Mainwaring has one interpretation of the Act which is not shared by Smith's Charity."

In July, Smith's Charity angered tenants when it announced that it had sold the freehold of the £283 million estate to another charity, the Wellcome Trust, without having served notices on tenants under section 5. This would have given tenants two months to respond. Instead, Wellcome served notices under section 18. Under this section, half the tenants must declare their interest in being offered the freehold within one month of receiving the notice. Cluttons, also acting as agent for Wellcome, says that Section 18 notices create more certainty and mean a quicker sale if tenants are not interested in the freehold.

## NATIONAL SAVINGS

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Date of Birth

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Signature

Date

5 If buying for a child under 16, give name of parent/guardian:

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6 If buying for a (great) grandchild, give name of the parent/guardian above and your own name and address below.

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All forenames

Address

Postcode

This form cannot be used to purchase Premium Bonds at a post office.

NATIONAL SAVINGS



## PIA limbers up for final round of pensions fight

Collette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, is putting on her boxing gloves, determined, at last, to bring the personal pension debate to a satisfactory conclusion.

This change of personal style is good news for those sold an unsuitable personal pension and now awaiting compensation. Insurance companies, the principal offenders in this affair, will doubtless be less pleased. Although they should see the swift resolution of this unhappy episode as the principal means of restoring public confidence in their products, a reluctance to confront realities lingers on.

This is shown in the public pronouncements of some senior insurance figures who

see themselves as unfairly treated and put the blame on the media.

The power of the press may be considerable, but the mass-murdering of a £4 billion scandal with hundreds of thousands of victims, lured into unsuitable pensions by commission-hungry salesmen is beyond our resources.

The press is, however, concerned to see people make decent provision for their old age. It does not want to see pensioners forced by inadequate pensions to fall back on the state. This cause should also be close to the hearts of insurance company boards anxious for increased pension sales, if not for pensioner welfare. But they must be prepared to make reparation for their past behaviour. This week, the atonement process



### COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH  
Personal Finance  
Editor

began in earnest, after months of prevarication. The PIA is now making clear the ultimate sanction for failure to provide information to its special pensions unit will be expulsion from the industry.

This threat applies not only to insurance companies but also to financial advisers who have claimed co-operation with the unit would invalidate their professional indemnity cover. The instinct

escape scrutiny should be aware that Ms Bowe's reputation depends on the outcome of this investigation. The writing is on the wall. Or, rather in the full-page advertisements, detailing offences, that could be the next PIA penalty for wrongdoers.

### Making tracks

The announcement that Legal & General is to abolish the 5.25 per cent initial charge on its index-tracker fund is designed to fill us with gratitude at its generosity (see page 33). But the effect is quite the reverse. You wonder how such a fee was ever justified and whether it would have been discontinued if competition in this market had not been so fierce.

A particular stock market index, holding the same shares and having (in theory) the same performance. No costly research work is needed.

When Gartmore did away with its charge three years ago, it said that there was no excuse for slicing 5 per cent from an investor's cheque for such a simple low-cost operation. Others persisted with the fee, hoping that investors would not notice.

The arrival of Virgin has alerted the public to the amounts being deducted from their investments. The unit trust industry has had to make the best of this development. But at its annual dinner this week, some hissed when the name, Virgin was mentioned. High spirits or resentment? More the latter, I think.



Fireworks fun for all, but remember, remember, household insurance policies and liability can be questionable should things get out of control or an accident happen

## Hidden hazards of bonfire night

This weekend is the riskiest time of year for householders as Guy Fawkes celebrations get under way. Apart from the danger of personal injury from fireworks or bonfires, the most obvious hazard is fire. On bonfire night, the risk of your home catching fire is 75 per cent higher than on any other day of the year. According to Eagle Star, the household insurer, there is an average of 600 house fires on November 5 each year against 340 on a typical day.

There are other threats. Eagle Star also found that the risk of being burgled on November 5 is 54 per cent higher than the daily norm. The average number of burglaries nationally on bonfire night, at 3,403, is the year's highest.

It is not hard to see why. The evenings are darker, many people are away from their homes attending firework dis-

plays, and the sound of exploding fireworks can mask the noise of breaking windows.

In most cases, your insurance company will honour claims. Theft is covered, while fire damage in the home caused by a stray rocket coming down your chimney or a bonfire getting out of control will also be catered for in household building and contents policies.

The latter will pay out as well if fireworks or sparks from a bonfire set alight outbuildings such as garages, sheds and greenhouses. Damage to fences and gates is also included in most policies.

Some claims are refused. Jacky Brown, underwriting manager at Preferred Direct, the insurer, gives an example of one policyholder who, in order to avoid damaging his lawn, built a bonfire on his patio. The heat from the bonfire ended up blistering much of the paintwork on the

window frames around the patio," she says. "We had to turn down his claim for repainting the windows, but if he had had an accidental damage extension to his policy we would have met the cost."

Your household policy also covers your legal liability as owner and occupier of your property. If someone is injured at a firework party at your home owing to your negligence — say, because you told him or her to relight a firework that had not gone off and which then exploded — your insurers will cover the cost of compensation if you are sued for damages.

However, your negligence would have to be proved. Your insurers would not pay out if guests are injured because of their own recklessness — for example, if they had stood too close to a bonfire even though you warned them not to.

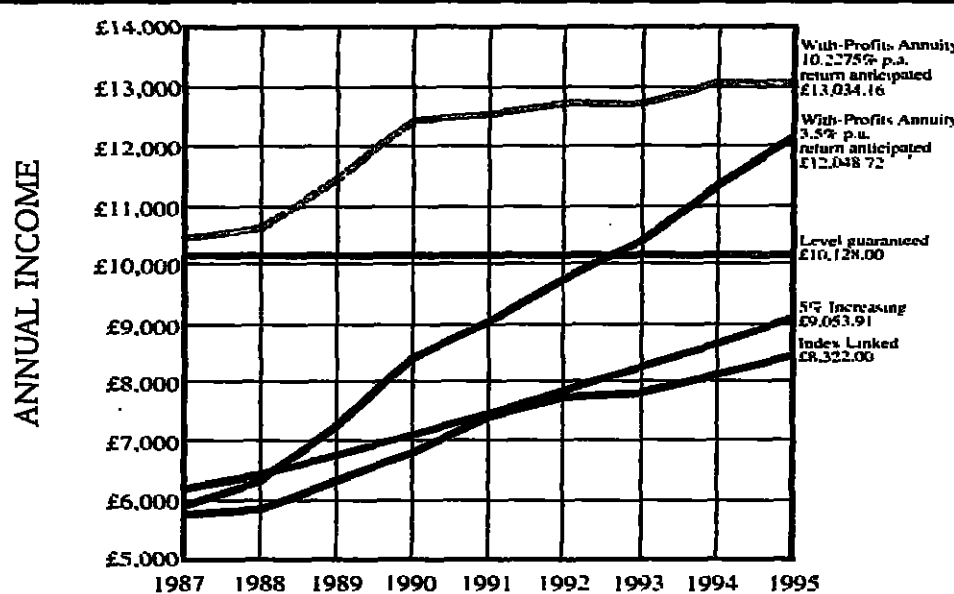
HELEN PRIDHAM

OVER 50?

## The wrong choice at the wrong time could reduce your retirement income by up to one third.

FT Quarterly Review of Personal Finance  
27 - 28 January 1995

## ISN'T IT WORTH SHOPPING AROUND FOR YOUR ANNUITY?



The figures in the above graph are based on a purchase price of £100,000 on 1 April 1987. The form of annuity is a joint-life annuity - male and female aged 60, payable monthly in advance, not reducing on first death.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

You may not realise that when you take the proceeds of your pension fund you face a critical decision: which investment route and which company can provide the best possible income for you to live comfortably for the rest of your life.

There is a range of different options available. Which one is appropriate for you will depend on your individual circumstances. Some will be offered by your existing pension provider, some may not.

So, we invite anyone approaching retirement with a personal pension fund to examine our range of retirement income plans and compare it with those on offer from other companies.

After all, having spent many years carefully selecting your plan provider and contributing regularly to

build up your fund, it would be a mistake not to investigate all the options before making a once and for all decision. Turning your pension fund into income is compulsory and your choice irrevocable.

Please shop around before you make your final decision, but especially take a look at what The Equitable Life has to offer - there are no second chances.

The above graph is designed to show what happened to four identical people and how different their outcomes have become. The graph is not designed to favour one route over another - everybody's personal circumstances are different - that's why you should seek advice about the most appropriate route. Furthermore, you should appreciate that the initial levels of annuities and

their relative positions would vary depending on the date of purchase.

Failure to exercise your right to choose could prove a very expensive mistake. The Equitable Life offers the widest range of retirement income plans in the UK. We offer plans that can guarantee a fixed income, can be inflation proofed, can be linked to stock markets and plans which can give some degree of control over your investment strategy and income.

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## Morag Preston looks at the growing popularity of postal accounts

Postal accounts are proving increasingly popular among people who do not have easy access to a local branch of their building society, either because they live out of town or because they work through their lunch hour.

As well as cutting out the need to travel, centrally administered postal accounts offer, on average, 1.5 per cent higher interest than branch-based alternatives. Currently, 16 out of 83 societies provide postal accounts, but the number is growing all the time, which pushes up the rates.

Northern Rock says: "The main advantage of postal accounts is the access factor. Every postbox becomes an account branch. Even though our heartland is in the North East of England, through our postal account network, we can serve customers further afield." To make deposits, customers send their account book with a cheque. Interest is added from the day it arrives. But most societies offer a range of 30-day, 60-day, and 90-day accounts that require a period of notice before a withdrawal. The longer the notice required, the higher the rate of interest. Early withdrawal means a penalty.

Graham Hooper, investment director of Chase de Vere, advises: "Once you've got enough in your bank account or high street building society for day to day living,



Mail orders: every postbox becomes an account branch

tuck away the left over in a postal account."

Such is the popularity of some postal accounts that they become oversubscribed quickly and building societies are forced to turn away new customers. Within the last year, Northern Rock has closed four postal accounts. However, they will reopen after November 9 as a result of the society's major reorganisation programme.

Northern Rock says: "In order to control what is coming in, we need to turn off the tap occasionally."

Cheltenham & Gloucester, the first major building society to offer savings accounts by post in 1989, is one of the last to introduce tiered rates. On October 21, C&G divided its single tier London Account into investment brackets of £1,000, £25,000, and £100,000. However, C&G's rates have

fallen to 5.85 per cent gross on £25,000 since it was taken over by Lloyds.

As well as supplying prepaid stationery, C&G is one of the few that allows its customers to make withdrawals by phone during working hours, or to deposit money over the counter. Customers at the Coventry may also make withdrawals by phone, but must make deposits by post. The Coventry is to reopen its popular Postal 50 account on Tuesday, offering an annual gross rate of 5.8 per cent on balances of £2,000, with interest increasing in tiers to 7 per cent on balances of £40,000 plus.

Most societies offer a 24-hour turnaround on transactions.

Mr Hooper picks out Leeds & Holbeck, at 6.20 per cent gross interest on £25,000, and Dorset-based Teachers, at 5.45 per cent gross interest on £20,000, as his favourite instant access postal accounts for this month. "They offer much better value than high street accounts," he says. "But they do require a high minimum deposit." Customers need to put aside a minimum of £10,000 and £500 respectively.

The Bradford & Bingley upset customers recently when it cut its rates on postal accounts six weeks after the launch of Direct 60, which paid 7.15 per cent on £15,000 and 7.4 per cent on £30,000. A little more than a month after the launch, B&B cut its postal account rates by 0.4 per cent.

Nottingham and Birmingham Midlands are among the highest payers, at 6.55 and 6.2 per cent gross on £25,000. Asset (Bristol & West) account pays 6.1 per cent gross on that sum.

Chase de Vere's Moneyline is a useful source of information on 0800 526091.

## Ethics and availability fight for students' cash

The result of the great chase for students' accounts, a ritual of freshers' week, is almost at an end. Although official figures will not be available until later this month, it appears that Barclays is ahead of the pack, having acquired for itself an ethical image. In the Eighties the bank was the subject of a student boycott for its South African connections.

Banks still place great importance on acquiring student customers, hoping to win their lifelong commitment. Barclays says its recruitment figures among students are up 15 per cent on last year. The bank wooed students with a £20 cash bonus, commission-free traveller's cheques, 2.5 per cent interest, and up to £750 free overdraft. Richard Harvey, head of youth market at Barclays, says: "This is our best year ever. We're doing well at all our venues."

Midland, popular in the North, predicts it still has 24

per cent of the student market it held last year. A £30 cash bonus, 2.96 per cent interest, and up to £500 free overdraft, were among the incentives on offer. It also distributed 300,000 free scratchcards at freshers' fairs. Lloyds reports encouraging signs of student uptake. The bank offered a £30 cash bonus, 1 per cent interest, and £500 free overdraft.

Halifax, which came in fairly recently, and proved popular last year, reports a levelling-out of recruitment this year, with an 8 per cent share. Its Maxima account offered 4.25 per cent interest, and up to £1,000 free overdraft.

Student unions can play a significant role in influencing undergraduates as to whom they should bank with, as the Co-operative has found to its delight. The bank attracts a lot of second and third-year students over its ethical stance. The Co-op says: "Mature students choose us because we tell them what we do with their money."

Freshers, on the other hand, are hooked on giveaway keychains and vouchers."

The Co-op, which offers 0.25 per cent interest and up to £500 overdraft facility, is already ahead of target. Lloyds and Midland, however, are on a blacklist at some universities, including Newcastle and Bournemouth, over "involvement in Third World debt".

Lloyds and Midland were removed from Exeter University's blacklist last week, because the students' stance proved impractical. NatWest, offering a £20 cash bonus, 2 per cent interest and up to £750 overdraft facility, is the most popular bank on campus.

Simon Hodgson, community officer at Exeter, said: "NatWest is the most popular by default, because no other banks are allowed on campus. But Barclays is trying to move into the student market, and has started recruiting off site."

MORAG PRESTON

I wanted income

I wanted growth

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# The art of investing in an emerging market

Robert Miller looks at the opportunities that are coming out of Africa



Africa was Terra Incognita to most Europeans before the great expeditions of the 1870s, such as that of Dr Livingstone. This week, however, it is very much in the news, but for all the wrong investment reasons. The fact that the South African Stock Exchange, a cornerstone of liquidity in the continent's money markets, is undergoing its own "Big Bang" or de-regulation, has been overshadowed by other events. In a Durban court this week, General Magnus Malan, the former South African Defence Minister and ten other security chiefs from the apartheid era, were bailed after being charged with murder in relation to the massacre in 1987 of 13 people. In Nigeria, Ken Saro-Wiwa, the playwright, was sentenced to death, provoking worldwide condemnation, including a strongly worded statement from the Foreign Office. It is into this apparently unsettled investment environment that GT proposes to launch an Africa fund this



An Ashanti 18th century terracotta head, at the Royal Academy of Arts Africa: The Art of A Continent exhibition

month. That there is growth potential in certain African markets is beyond dispute. Indeed, the African story could well be the emerging market story of the next few years. Others in this category, notably the now more mature Far East Tiger economies, such as Thailand and Malaysia, are taking a breather. John Legat, GT's director of emerging

in general have been held back in the same way that many Latin American countries were in the 1970s and 80s. These factors include excessive control of national economies, centralised planning, import substitution, tariffs, price and wage controls and restrictions on foreign exchange. In certain countries, corruption should be added to the list. Tribal and ethnic conflicts have also played their part. These include the war of Kanganese succession in what is now Zaire in the early 1990s, the Nigerian war of the early 1970s and the complete breakdown of law and order in Somalia in the early 1990s. Turning to individual countries, Mr Legat says that in Uganda, once hailed as the Pearl of Africa, investment is only now beginning to pick up after the imposition of a strict economic regime, backed by the International Monetary Fund, in 1988. Cotton production has doubled to 70,000 bales since. The continent is still rich in minerals, and tourism is developing rapidly. There are now 14 bourses, or stock exchanges. Besides South Africa, other nations with bourses include Egypt, Mauritius and Namibia. Mr Legat says that favoured countries for his portfolio are likely to include South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Ghana, Botswana, Kenya and Mauritius. He adds that portfolio weightings should reflect the fact that the Africa story is only part of the emerging markets theme, but is certainly worth an initial or even increased exposure. It is one for locking away on a long-term view.

## availability dents' cash

The price war in the personal savings market intensified this week when two leading unit trust managers scrapped initial charges on their funds. The moves, by Legal & General and HSBC Asset Management, were prompted in part by the current mood of apathy and suspicion among private investors, which has seen unit trust sales fall by 20 per cent in recent months. In addition, managers have watched Richard Branson attract £100 million of new savings to his low-cost Virgin personal equity plan (Pep) since its launch in March. They are also looking forward to getting their hands on some of the £15 billion of funds that are held in tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) and are due to mature next year. As a result, HSBC, whose UK

## Pepping up interest by abolishing sign-up fees

Index Fund is worth £162 million, announced that it was abolishing initial charges on seven of its funds. From January 1, there will no longer be a 5.25 per cent charge on its index tracking funds. Legal & General, which said that it aimed to increase its share of the Pep market from 1 to 10 per cent in the next three years, has scrapped initial charges and withdrawal fees on its five existing

Peps. The company has also launched a low-cost index-tracking Pep that claims to be the cheapest on the market, investing in L&G's UK Index Trust, holder of nearly 72 per cent of shares in the FT-SE 100 index. Index-tracking funds aim to match the growth of an index — a measure of movement in value by a certain number of shares. There are 39 authorised such funds, with £23 billion under management, and investors need to choose one with a good record, not just opt for one with low charges. Among the cheapest Peps is Virgin's, with an annual management charge of 1 per cent and no initial charge. Gartmore's UK Index Fund Pep has no initial charge and an annual 1 per cent charge.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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\*Source: Microplot. Dev to sell issue with net income re-invested over five years to 1 September 1995.

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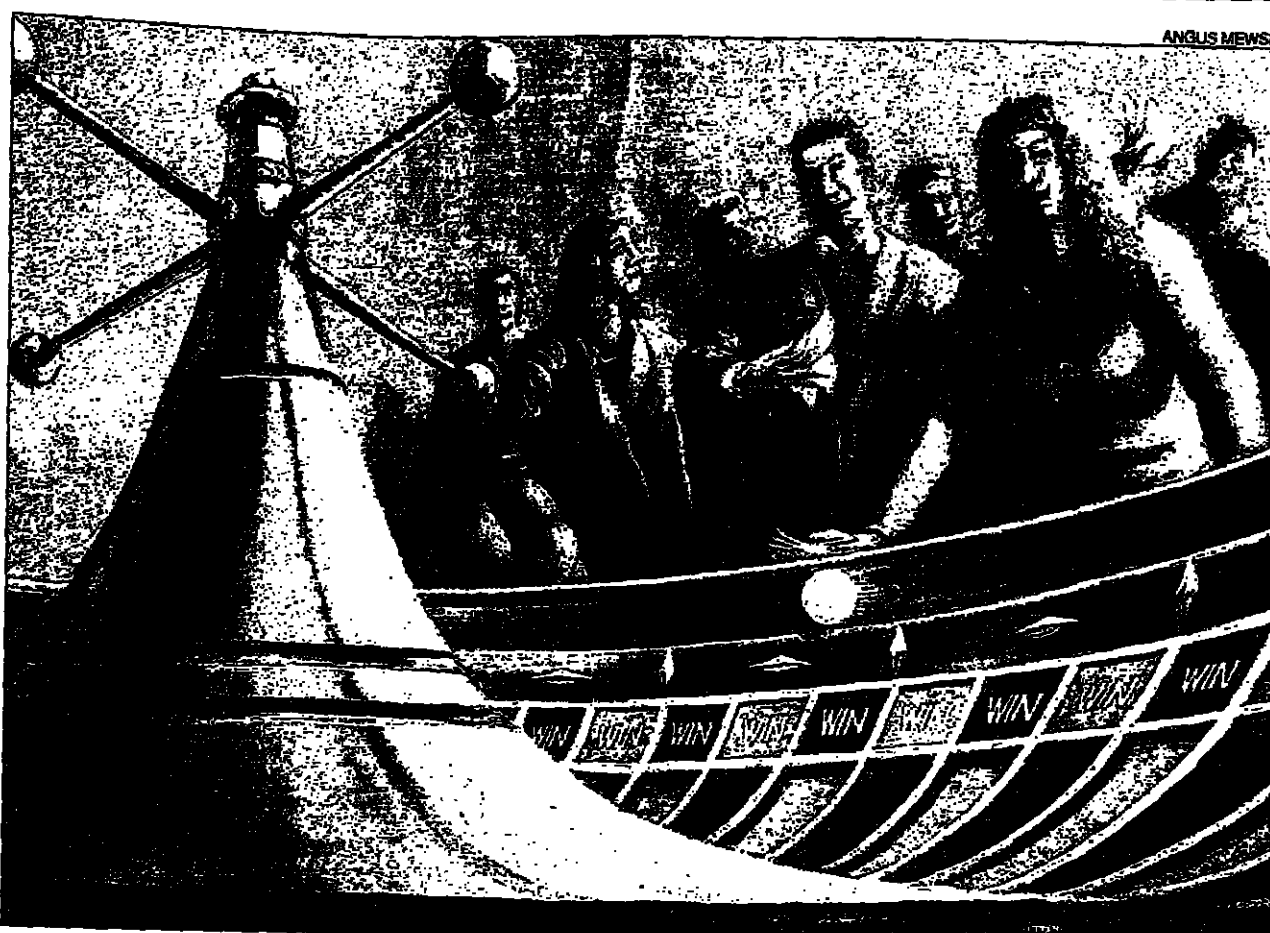
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## Gamble with Ernie — but keep your stake

**Q** When were Premium Bonds introduced?

**A** The first draw was held in 1957. The top prize was £1,000. Significant events in Ernie's history to date include his replacement in 1973 by the speedier Ernie Mark II. In 1988, Ernie Mark III capable of completing the draw in less than two hours came into operation.

In 1990, in a bizarre episode, it was alleged that M15 was using Premium Bond cheques to pay freelance agents. It was claimed that cheques were sent out from the Premium Bond headquarters in Lytham St Annes, Blackpool. The security services then reimbursed National Savings. But the rumour was denied by the Prime Minister, who said there was "no scope for abuse of the system". The Department for National Savings was not asked to investigate further. Today, the department says: "We would have had nothing to tell, other than to comment that the suggestion was pure fantasy." Lord "Lucky" Lucan won £100 in 1980, six years after his disappearance in the wake of the murder of nanny Sandra Rivett. The cash went to creditors.

**Q** How many bonds can I hold?

**A** In 1957, the maximum holding was £500; it is now £20,000. The minimum purchase is a relatively steep £100. Purchases above that figure are in multiples of £10. Bonds can be bought by those over 16 only. But parents, grandparents and guardians can buy bonds on behalf of children. Bonds enter the draw once they have been held for a full calendar month.

More than 23 million people hope to win the £1 million top Premium Bond prize. Anne Ashworth reports

**Q** How are the winners selected?

**A** The prize-winning numbers are chosen by the fabled Ernie, not a computer, but an electronic random number generator. Ernie works by a complex system of electronic noises, generating random numbers by means of a number of tiny Zenit noise diodes.

The noises made by these diodes are converted electronically into the digits that make Premium Bond numbers. Suspicious bondholders will be reassured to learn that, each month, the Government Actuary monitors Ernie's output. The officials carry out statistical tests to check that the letters and figures that make up the winning bond numbers are produced entirely at random, and that each eligible bond number has an equal chance of winning.

**Q** What prizes are on offer?

**A** About £24 million a month is paid out in 368,480 prizes (November total). The prize pot is calculated as a variable percentage (currently 5.2 per cent) of the total invested in Premium Bonds. The monthly prize structure was introduced 18 months ago. There is one £1 million prize, two of £100,000, three of £50,000, four of £25,000, ten of £10,000 and 25 of £5,000. In addition, there are about 368,435 prizes of between £50 and £1,000, all free of income tax and capital gains tax.

**Q** What are the odds of winning a prize?

**A** The odds of winning any prize are 1 in 15,000 for each single £1 unit. But these widen to 1 in 5.53 billion for the jackpot and 1 in 2.76 billion for a £100,000 prize. They reduce to 1 in 16,211 for a £50 prize.

The law of averages suggests if you hold £1,250 worth of bonds, you should win a prize a year. With the maximum £20,000 holding, you should win 16 prizes a year.

**Q** How are the odds worked out?

**A** In the past few weeks, several readers of *The Times* have written questioning these odds statistics, particularly those for the £20,000 holders.

Michael McDade, deputy head of operations at National Savings, explains: "To calculate the average chance, or odds, of winning a prize, the number of eligible bonds is divided by the number of prizes in each draw. For example, in October, the number of eligible bonds was 5,405,981,018, and we paid out 360,398 prizes. Hence each £1 bond had a 1 in 15,000 chance of winning a prize."

He continues: "A number of our customers who hold £20,000 worth of bonds have won more than 16 prizes in a year and a number have won less. It is the average number of prize wins which, for maximum holders, works out at 16 a year. This follows from the fact that, to a sufficient order

of approximation, the average number of prize wins is determined by the number of bonds held times the chance of winning times the number of draws, thus: 20,000 x 1/15,000 x 12 equals 16."

**Q** Why do the newer bonds win all the prizes?

**A** The conviction that the more recently purchased bonds receive preferential treatment leads many holders to cash in their bonds to buy new ones. However, National Savings points out that there are more prizewinners among the recent bond numbers, because many earlier bonds have been cashed in. Switching from old to new bonds puts you at a disadvantage, as bonds do not enter the draw until they have been held for a full calendar month.

**Q** Why does Ernie have a bias towards the South?

**A** The myth of a southern bias holds considerable sway, reinforced by the frequency of Surrey £1 million jackpot winners. Four of the 20 millionaires created to date, including this month's, come from this county. National Savings, however, points to the ownership statistics: southerners win more prizes simply because they hold more bonds. National Savings points out that names and addresses are not stored within Ernie's system.

**Q** Are Premium Bonds an investment or a form of gambling?

**A** Premium Bonds are a form of gambling, where your stake is the interest that you forgo on your cash invested in the bonds.

THERE are about 23.1 million bondholders, close to half the population. Together they have £5.6 billion invested in bonds, half of which have been bought in the past five years. Since 1957, some £3 billion has been paid out in prizes. Our affection for Ernie does not always extend to providing details of a change of address. As a result, there is close to £13 million in unclaimed prizes. The numbers are listed in the *London Gazette*, available from post offices. Sales of bonds have prospered since the introduction of the £1 million

### BOND FACTS

jackpot in April 1994 and the subsequent launch of the National Lottery, which highlighted one advantage of a Premium Bond win-anonymity.

There are also signs that independent financial advisers are more willing than formerly to recommend all National Savings schemes. In the past, they were sometimes overlooked, as the Department for National Savings does not offer commission to middlemen.

Since April, the numbers with the £20,000 maximum holding have more than doubled from 19,297 to 46,525.

The boom in sales means that Premium Bonds are the principal contributor among National Savings schemes to government funding. Those who despair of their chances will be relieved to learn that only one of the 20 Ernie millionaires has the maximum holding, although the November winner was close, with £19,500. The holder from Gloucestershire who scooped the jackpot in October had £500 of bonds.



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Allenbridge, analyst of Peps, is providing a free evaluator to help investors with risk assessment when choosing a Corporate Bond. The risks assessed for each fund are: level of liquidity; the spread of investments; credit risk; and sensitivity to interest rate movements. Call freephone 0500 551000.

Help the Aged has published a free booklet giving advice to senior citizens on money management. *Thinking About Money* aims to help older people to balance their household budgets and offers practical tips on maximising income and claiming welfare benefit. Available by sending a SAE to Information Department (Money), Help the Aged, St James's Walk, Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0BE, or from all Help the Aged shops.

CafCash, a trading subsidiary of the Charities Aid Foundation, has launched a High Interest Cheque Account designed for the banking needs of charities. Special cheque books will enable charitable account-holders to make payments directly to third parties and administration costs will be kept to a minimum. Contact Sue Pavey at CAF on 01732 770114.

Pensions for Women is a four-page guide published by NatWest Bank providing information on why women need to consider planning for their retirement. Available free on 0800 255 200.

The Share Centre is offering a free Christmas album CD to individual investors who pay £37.50 or more in dealing commission between now and December 22. Call 0800 800008 for details.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS

Account	Interest	Rate	Interest paid
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	Instant Acc	Postal	£250
Co-operative Bank 0345 252000	Pathfinder	Postal	£5,000
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2438292	Albion	Postal	£10,000
Birmingham Midshires BS 0645 720721	First Class	Postal	£25,000

FIXED RATES

Account	Interest	Rate	Interest paid
Nwch & Pwbrgh BS 01733 391497	Fixed Intrust Bond	1yr bond	£5,000
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 244 0357	Investment Bond	2yr bond	£5,000
Woodwich BS 0800 400000	Fixed Rate Bond	3yr bond	£5,000
Birmingham Midshires BS 0645 720721	Millennium Bond	4yr bond	£5,000

NOTICE ACCOUNTS AND BONDS

Account	Interest	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 948 1444	Postmark	7 day p	£2,500
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Scarborough 50	50 day	£2,500
National Counties BS 01372 742211	90 Day	90 day	£20,000
Greenwich BS 0181 858 8212	Flagship Term	1 yr bond	£5,000

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Card type	Interest	APR	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.98%G	12.40% NII C
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50% NII C
Frizzell Bank 0800 373191	MasterCard/Visa	1.17%	16.10% £11

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs no insurance
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22

PERSONAL LOANS

APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs no insurance
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

BASE RATES V MORTGAGES

FT-SE 100 PRICE INDEX

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Product	Rate	Term	Contact
Ordinary A/c	2.00	1.50	10-10,000
Investment A/c	5.25	3.94	1.15
Income Bond	6.50	4.88	3.80
First Opt Bond	8.40	4.80	3.84
42nd Issue Certificate	5.85	10-10,000	8day
Children's Bond	7.85	25-1,000	1mth
Gen Ext Rate	3.51		
Capital Bonds	7.75	5.81	4.65
8th Issue Certificate	3.00	10-10,000	8day
Pensions Bond	5.70	5.83	4.50

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)

Product	Male: Age 60	Male: Age 65	Male: Age 70
Prudential Level	£10,377	£11,391	£12,758
Sun Life Canada Level	£10,255	£11,267	£12,635
Royal Life Level	£10,230	£11,381	£12,894
Canada Life Level	£10,058	£11,227	£12,810
Standard Life Level	£10,136	£11,204	£12,584

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)

Product	Male: Age 60	Male: Age 65	Male: Age 70
Prudential Level	£9,237	£9,803	£10,599
Royal Life Level	£9,046	£9,682	£10,593
Sun Life Canada Level	£9,046	£9,682	£10,593
Standard Life Level	£8,953	£9,588	£10,418
General Level	£8,929	£9,547	£10,401

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME Rates as at November 2, 1995

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
5,000	AIG Life	5.10
10,000	AIG Life	5.15
20,000	AIG Life	5.20
50,000	AIG Life	5.25
2 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.50
10,000	AIG Life	5.67
20,000	AIG Life	5.73
50,000	AIG Life	5.78
3 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.80
10,000	AIG Life	5.97
20,000	AIG Life	5.97
50,000	AIG Life	5.97
4 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.90
10,000	AIG Life	5.82
20,000	AIG Life	5.82
50,000	AIG Life	5.82
5 Years		
1,000	Abbeys Life	6.85
10,000	Abbeys Life	7.05
20,000	Abbeys Life	7.05
50,000	Abbeys Life	7.05

Source: Chamberlain de Broe 0171-434 4222. Net of 25% tax (which cannot be reclaimed). Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE

Gross coupon	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Birmingham Midshires 9.375%	95.81	9.777	100.17
Bradford & Bingley 11.625%	117.83	9.851	100.13
Bradford & Bingley 13.000%	131.57	9.884	100.20
Bristol & West 13.375%	134.14	9.959	100.34
Brannan 13.000%	129.88	9.991	100.42
Covoperty 13.375%	121.34	9.973	100.75
First National 11.750%	111.31	9.772	100.25
Halifax 8.750%	90.32	9.887	100.62
Halifax 12.000%	122.95	9.591	100.28
Halifax 13.625%	140.13	9.703	100.00
Leeds & Holbeck 13.375%	133.72	9.961	100.23
Newcastle 12.750%	125.85	9.772	100.33
Newcastle 12.625%	128.59	9.773	100.45
Northern Rock 12.625%	130.97	9.620	100.14
Skipston 12.875%	129.64	9.912	100.48

FLOATING RATE

Gross coupon	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National 9.3000%	100.75	100.00	1,000
Cheshire (28/03-28/09) 9.2476%	103.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent Interest-bearing shares. Source: ABN AMRO House, Gower - 0171 601 0101

SHARE IN FOCUS: STORE WAR VICTIM

Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct

LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Yorkshire	1.99	neg	95	6% disc 1 year, 2% disc 18 mths
0800 378636				
Bristol & West	0.95	£15k+	90	Fixed to 30.11.96
0800 100117				
Northern Rock	1.99	to £100k	90	6% discount to 1.97
0800 591 500				
National Westminster	2.79	£15k+	75	5.20% discount for 12 months
0121 234 2000				
Midland	2.79	£100k+	80	4.8% discount for 1 year
0800 494 998				
Larger Loans				
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.51% disc-6 mms 3% disc-6 mms 6% discount for 6 months
01734 510100				
Bank of Scotland	1.50	to £200k	95	
0131 243 5735				

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough	0.75	15,001 to £100k	95	7.24% - 6 mths, 2% 6mths 0.5% 1y
0800 590547				
Hinckley & Rugby	0.75	to £150k	70	Fixed to 1.9.96
0800 777 000				
0800 100117				
Northern Rock	0.95	£15k+	90	Fixed to 30.11.96
0800 591 500				
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.51% disc-6 mms 3% disc-6 mms 6% discount for 6 months
01734 510100				
Bank of Scotland	1.50	to £200k	95	
0131 243 5735				

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Table with multiple columns: Bid, Offer, Wtd, Yld, etc. for various insurance companies and investment products.







## Falls as profit-takers move in

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	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**THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4 1995**

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# Crawley in fine shape to press for Test place

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN EAST LONDON

OUTWARDLY, John Crawley has changed so much that, with his cropped hair, he could pass for a warder in *Jailhouse Rock*. Inwardly he has changed, too. The young man who set out on a Test career 16 months ago has taken longer to adjust than he or others, imagined. Now that he is showing signs of doing so, will there be a Test place for him?

Crawley is "the man in possession", having finished the summer batting at No 3 against West Indies. However, Raymond Illingworth has signalled a clear wish for Mark Ramprakash to bat there this winter, against South Africa. Should Ramprakash be selected?

The West Indies board is threatening to punish several Test players after the reports by the captain, manager and coach accused them of causing disruption during the tour of England this year. The players, who have not been named, have been ordered to answer the charges by November 15 or face punishment.

ed, the best Crawley can hope for is a place at No 6, ahead of Robin Smith.

Yesterday, as overnight rain washed out the second day of England's four-day match against Border, Crawley had good reason to curse. He is 87 not out and wants to turn it into something big, to remind Illingworth which players are in the best form.

With 85 against an Invitation XI behind him, and runs here, Crawley is well ahead of Smith if form counts for anything, but Michael Atherton admires Smith's big-match temperament and there is every likelihood that Smith will get another chance to play himself into form against a South African A side at Kimberley next week.

Since he returned from Aus-

tralia earlier this year, having achieved only a partial success there last winter, Crawley has attempted to play straighter. He is also toning down something of his natural expansiveness, to the point where it seems he is giving an impersonation of somebody "bating responsibly".

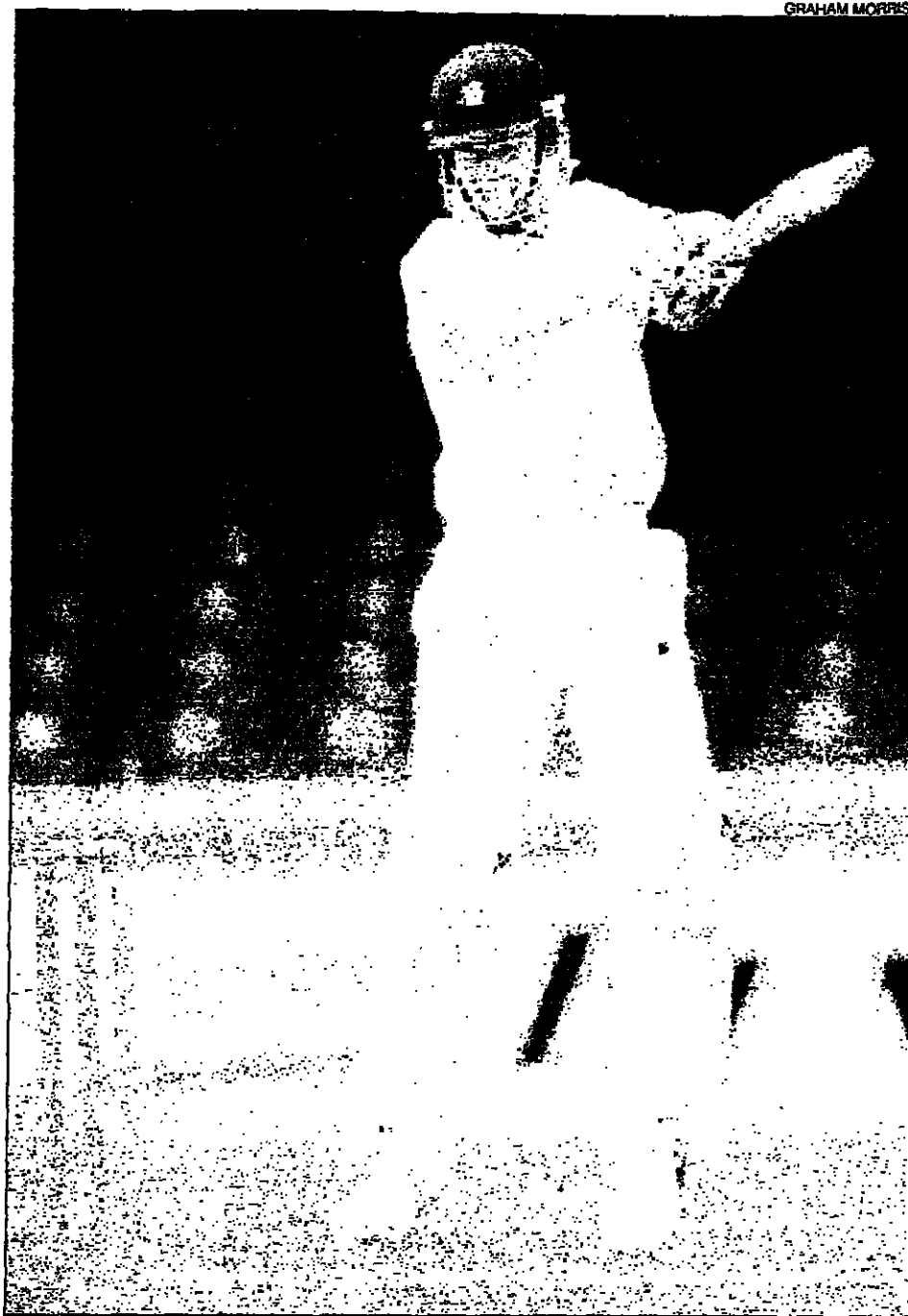
He makes no bones about this adjustment of style. "I don't want to get out. I am trying to accumulate runs without making mistakes and in four-day cricket, particularly when you open or bat first wicket down, you can bat for a longer period of time. You can get a good ball early on, but if you get in, then being out for 60 or 70 is not good enough."

John Edrich, the England batting coach, has assisted him. "My technique is similar to last season but I have worked with Edrich on a few things, notably playing with softer hands in defence and playing straighter through mid-on. He tells everybody to set their sights on a hundred, not to get out for 40s."

Keen as he is to make amends for his Test failures, Crawley is not expecting any favours from Atherton, the man he followed to Manchester Grammar School, Cambridge and Lancashire. "There are players here with much better Test records than I," he said.

"I did not play especially well during the summer but I learnt a lot and I hope I am a better player for it. Robin is a fine player at Test level and is going through a bad run, as anybody can. He is probably the best player of fast bowling in the team so I would not have thought that was an issue."

Crawley's well-documented efforts to reshape his body in the past six months have helped his running between the wickets and in the field. Now he is down to a shade over 13 stone, in trim, and looking forward to reshaping his international career.



Crawley, on his way to 87 not out against Border, is out to impress again today

## Hussain plays vital innings

NASSER HUSSAIN, the captain, played a delightful innings of 64 as the England A side gained their second successive victory yesterday, beating a Pakistan Cricket Board XI by seven runs at Thatta in a match reduced to 45 overs a side.

After England A had been put in, Jason Pooley was out in the fourth over but the Yorkshire opener, Andrew McGrath, helped Hussain repair the damage with a second-wicket stand of 71. Hussain's innings was streets ahead of any other in terms of class, although Jason Gallian scored 28 rapid runs to boost the total.

The Board XI passed 100 with only three wickets down and, with 13 runs required off the last two overs, were still in with a chance until Kabir Khan lost patience and swung vainly at Ed Giddins.

ENGLAND A XI  
A. McGrath c Kabir b Anwar 34  
J.C. Pooley c Ramzan b Anwar 1  
N. Hussain c Jaz b Zahir 64  
D.P. Oshier run out 10  
R.C. Tinn b Anwar 0  
J.E.R. Gallian c Jaz b Zahir 28  
R.K. J. Poper c Qadir b Kabir 11  
D.W. Headley b Kabir 9  
R.D. Stamp b Kabir 9  
A.M. Smith not out 1  
S.H. Giddins b Kabir 0  
Euseb (lb 3, w 6) not out 15  
Total (44.3 overs) 168  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-7, 3-101, 4-103, 5-125, 6-149, 7-162, 8-163, 9-168  
BOWLING: Kabir 7.3-20-4, Anwar 9-0-31-1, Ramzan 4-0-19-0, Jaz 6-0-30-0

PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD XI  
Muhammad Ramzan run out 34  
Ghulam Ali c McGrath b Smith 12  
Jaz Ahmed Jr c McGrath b Giddins 26  
Muhammad Hamid c Oshier b Headley 30  
Saad Waseem lbw b Tinn 3  
Zahir Kabir run out 15  
Saif-ur-Rahman c Poper b Stamp 4  
Ather Laseed c Poper b Stamp 4  
Javed Ghouse run out 7  
Kabir Khan c Tinn b Giddins 14  
Anwar Ali not out 6  
Euseb (lb 3, w 6) not out 15  
Total (45.4 overs) 161  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-58, 3-95, 4-101, 5-123, 6-123, 7-132, 8-132, 9-152  
BOWLING: Giddins 6-1-20-2, Headley 9-2-29-1, Gallian 4-0-23-0, Smith 6-4-0-30-1, Tinn 7-1-21-1, Stamp 9-2-35-2  
□ Salim Malik, the former Pakistan captain, was dismissed for seven against South Australia in his first innings since his eight-month exile from the game following bribery accusations.

## Sign right here O. J. and have a nice day

The price of O. J. Simpson memorabilia continues to go through the roof and beyond, most particularly if the trade involves items that the great man has actually signed himself. It seems that the great star of American football is more famous than ever before. How can this be? Well, football fans have long memories, and there is no doubt in my mind that these born-again O. J. fans simply wish to celebrate a great career. Surely the high prices cannot possibly have any connection with any unfortunate events that may have transpired over the past 15 months. Besides, would any one in the United States truly wish to cash in on a such a distasteful thing as a murder trial?

O. J. is planning a massive signing session at Atlantic City, the American epicentre of restraint, good taste and wholesomeness. "I want to keep this a sports show, not a 'Hey, I'm out of jail show,'" said Mike Gilbert, O. J.'s agent and guardian of the higher morality. He said that Simpson's contract for the show allows him not to sign anything he does not like — and so he won't be signing pictures of the famous slow-motion car-chase along the Los Angeles freeway system, the chase that paralysed America and filled every television channel for hours.

However, the promoter of the signing session, Mike Bertolini, has said that O. J. will sign photographs of both courtroom scenes and the chase — and that they will be available by mail order.

"That absolutely will not happen," Gilbert said. "O. J. will not sign it." Admittedly, O. J. has already signed one or two photos from the courtroom. Well, about 1,000 of them, actually. But he now regrets it. Well, we all do things we regret from time to time, don't we, O. J.?" There's no going back," Gilbert wisely says. "But we're not going to do any more of those."

In line with the good taste ambience of the entire business, Al "A.C." Cowlings will not, after all, appear at the signing session. It was Al that drove the Bronco during the infamous chase.

Background info on Bertolini: pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit tax



**SIMON BARNES**  
On Saturday

fraud after baseball memorabilia event in 1989. Also pleaded guilty to assaulting one of his partners in that venture four years on. The weapon, appropriately enough, was a baseball bat.

### Grande Illusion

Just because all these continentals keep beating British football teams, it doesn't mean they are better. Of course not. They just look better. Opinions of some jingoistic English footballers? *Pas du tout*. Opinions of Guy Roux, for 30 years manager of Auxerre, a footballing god in France

ing but replicas of famous holes from other courses. For just 50 bucks, you play 18 charismatic, puzzling and otherwise notorious holes from the entire puzzling and fooling world of golf. You can, for example, play the three holes of the renowned Amen Corner from Augusta. But the proprietors of the Tour 18 golf course must now face trial for violation of copyright. Their defence is that golf design cannot be protected by law. A hole in the ground is hole in the ground. Old American joke: what is black and brown and looks good on a lawyer? A doberman.

### Soccer school

They still love Bruce in Zimbabwe. Bruce Grobbelaar, who appears in court next month on charges of fixing football matches, has plans to open a football academy for young players in Zimbabwe, where his career began. He is still the Zimbabwe goalie, not to mention living national treasure.

### Buttoned up

Now that rugby union has ditched all that amateur nonsense, the gimlet-eyed marketing people are really on the ball. No opportunity for making a quick quid escapes their attention. An advertisement in a recent Wasps programme offers The Rob Andrew Shirt: "The black Wasps rugby jersey specially commissioned with the number 10 on the back and Rob's signature embossed in gold on the sleeve."

It comes in a special presentation box, in a limited (well, fairly limited) edition of just 300. Adult sizes £59.95; children's sizes a give-away at £39.95. Small problem: Andrew has, of course, been kicked out for poaching his team-mates on behalf of his new club, Newcastle. Moral: some people are better at seizing commercial opportunities than others.



and one time mentor of Eric Cantona to boot. "French players aren't better than English players — they give the illusion of being better," he said, adding: "English players show admirable discipline. Frankly, I am jealous of that. They are disciplined at every level. They are Anglo-Saxon. We are not yet at the level of the English championship."

### Hazardous

Can you copyright a hole? That is the vexed legal question in the United States. In Houston, Texas, someone has come up with the ingenious idea of making a golf course that comprises nothing but replicas of famous holes from other courses.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES



## F-16 DOWN! My story, by Captain Scott O'Grady

Five months ago the world waited to know the fate of the American fighter pilot shot down over Bosnia. For five days, nothing was heard. Then, miraculously, a rescue mission went in to pull him out. In The Sunday Times tomorrow he tells his amazing story of survival

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There's still big cash prizes to be won in Week 2 of our Scrabble scratchcard game. Reveal the right letters tomorrow and you could win one of seven prizes up to £2,200 or the weekly £5,000 jackpot. See the Style section



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# Leaders of pack fear the threat to their status

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union is now reaching a stage of paranoia in the vacuum that has existed since the adoption of an open game. Leading clubs look over their shoulders, fearful of where the next threat to their supremacy may come, distrustful of the motives of their governing body, only gradually perceiving the possibilities of a professional future.

Wealthy Newcastle are not the only ogre; Cardiff are seen as the main manipulators in Wales, while there is aggressive talk from Harlequins and their ability to enter the transfer market — as witness the attempted seduction of Martin Bayfield from Northampton this week. Exasperated Bath know that, without entering some kind of contractual arrangement, the talent that exists in their second team will not remain if clubs with financial muscle come calling.

Players may believe this situation to be advantageous, but the wiser heads among them will reserve their options until they can identify clearly the long-term future, rather than a short-term profit. That they have formed their own professional organisation, the Rugby Union Players' Association, will be good for them and for their employers — the clubs. Indeed England First Division Clubs Ltd will announce on Monday their proposals for the future well-being of the game — two days in advance of the Rugby Football Union.

The international authorities have stressed, of course, that the requirements of national bodies take pride of place and the exercise of that power by Ireland this weekend has irritated English clubs with Irishmen on their books. Not that this particular club-versus-country argument is a product of the new era — indeed it is almost as old as squad weekends.

Be that as it may, the Courage Clubs Championship goes ahead this weekend without those players required for Irish training, with one exception. Niall Malone, of Leicester, has successfully pleaded his case for release

from the duties which take away such players as Jim Staples (Harlequins), Nick Poppell (Wasps), Simon Geoghegan (Bath) and the London Irish duo, Gary Halpin and Conor O'Shea. Malone, Ireland's third-choice stand-off half, argued that he was better off playing a demanding league game against Harlequins and establishing his credentials for international rugby. Leicester, without the injured Jez Harris and deprived of Dean Richards, their captain, with a strained calf muscle, are relieved at his success. They may yet lose Neil Back if the flanker does not recover from flu.

Leicester and Bristol are the only clubs to retain lettering as a form of identification but, in committee this week, Leicester decided to adopt numbers, save on special occasions. Their meeting with Harlequins, themselves without David Price who will confirm who is best suited to pursue Bath at the top of the table. Four Bath players, the restored England full back, Jonathan Callard, among them, are reported to have been approached by Gloucester, and Phil de Glanville, the captain, said: "We have got to look after players and we need a big cash injection from somewhere."

They may take out their displeasure on Sale, one of the three sides to beat them last season and without Chris Saverimuttu, their Irish squad scrum half, for the first time this season. Charlie Vyvyan plays in Sale's back row for the first time since September. Bayfield, the England lock now on sabbatical from the police force the better to perform in a professional sport, plays at Franklins Gardens when Northampton expect to dispose of the only other unbeaten record in the second division, that of London Scottish. The Scots have dropped only one point and have conceded a meagre six tries this season: Northampton, though, have averaged eight a match, so something will have to give.



Bayfield, the Northampton and England lock forward, who turned down an offer to join Harlequins

## Davies happy in back seat for Cardiff

By DAVID HANDS

THOSE who would wheel Jonathan Davies straight back into the Wales side for the five nations' championship in the new year will hope for ammunition for their argument when Davies plays his first game of rugby union since Christmas, 1988, tomorrow. That Davies defects all such suggestions, and that it would hardly be the most forward-thinking move the Wales selectors could make, seems neither here nor there. He will be happy to survive his first outing in Cardiff colours. He has worn the black of Neath and the red of Llanelli with distinction: now

he takes to the blue-and-black at the Arms Park against Aberavon in the Heineken League, which had not been created when he left for rugby league. "I'll take it game by game, see how this season goes, before I think about next season," Davies said. "I won't be the same player myself. I was when I left but I have learnt a lot of things along the way. Rugby is a lot more serious now, players don't smile as much as they used to; I'd like to do something about that."

The only position Davies has not played in the backs is scrum half but, against Aberavon, he will play full

back, which will lend scope to his running skills while not requiring the instant decision-making that the crowded middle of the modern era demand. "We haven't shaped a game, in the one training session he's had, to suit Jonathan," Alun Donovan, the Cardiff coach, said. "He's talented enough to make his mark and I'm sure, ball in hand, he'll prove himself. He's been out of the game for six years and I don't know where his best position is. The angles he was running in training weren't what we are used to, but in that respect, he could bring another dimension to our game. Our players have to realise, though, that

they are all responsible for how the game goes — if our forwards don't win much ball, then we won't see much of Jonathan anyway."

The club's decision to play him at full back, behind a back division including five internationals, even though Cardiff rest seven men required by Wales against Fiji a week later, means no place for Mike Rayer. "Mike is extremely disappointed," Donovan said. "You expect that from such a committed player. He wanted to be part of what has become such a big occasion."

Amid all the hullabaloo, Nigel Walker, the international wing, makes his comeback after a shoulder operation.

## Players go without as Widnes fall on hard times

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

TIMES could not be more different at Widnes. As Jonathan Davies prepares for his Cardiff debut, the club which brought him into rugby league nearly seven years ago and was the scourge of Welsh rugby union is still counting the cost of its Eighties boom.

Doug Laughton, the Widnes manager, whose open cheque book was once the most feared in Wales, gathered his players this week to inform them that the club was not in a position to meet contract payments. Debt has been a recurring theme for several years now.

Widnes are awaiting £300,000 from the local authority, which is buying Naughton Park for redevelopment. Laughton is resisting other clubs' interest in John Devereux, whom he bought from Bridgend in 1989 shortly after luring Davies from Llanelli, but the financial pressure could make a move to Warrington inevitable.

"It's true we have had problems and I told the players the facts straight. It wasn't a pleasant task and it's the first time I've ever had to inform players they would not be receiving owed monies," Laughton said. "But I don't want to sell John and will fight any move for him to go."

Adrian Hadley, another former international union player linked with a return to Wales, has attacked Widnes for transfer-listing him at £35,000. He believes he is a free agent because the club has failed to meet his payments. "As far as I'm concerned, the contract is no longer valid," he said.

Hadley, 32, who originally joined Salford from Cardiff in 1988 after 27 appearances for Wales, said he signed a new 18-month contract earlier this year on the understanding that Widnes would be competing in the Super League next spring, but the club was eventually squeezed out of the new top flight in the former's final draft.

Widnes are involved with Keighley and Salford in a three-horse race for the first division title.

Andy Platt returns after World Cup duties with England to the Widnes front row for the visit tomorrow to Rochdale, where they last lost 22 years ago.

## Champion switches to duathlon in protest at drafting

By DAVID POWELL

SPENCER SMITH is taking his protest against drafting in triathlon one stage further than refusing to defend his world title in Cancun, Mexico, next weekend. Smith, a San Diego-based Briton, will contest instead the duathlon world championship at the same venue tomorrow when drafting will not be permitted.

Smith's appearance in the lesser of these two International Triathlon Union (ITU) championships is intended to highlight his disapproval of drafting, which allows riders to slipstream during the cycling stage, instead of keeping a prohibited distance. "It is really a protest. We are supporting non-drafting," Bill Smith, the triathlete's father, said.

While it may seem curious that the ITU permits drafting in one of its championships but not in another, the sport is still at the experimental stage, seeking to ensure that it produces the best form of racing possible by the time it enters the Olympic Games in the year 2000. The pro-drafting lobby argues that team tactics make the cycle section more exciting but Spencer Smith said: "Triathlon is an individual thing and it should be kept an individual thing."

There can be no argument that Smith's absence from the main event is a pity. He has been a world champion three years in succession, winning the junior title in 1992 and last year becoming the first man to defend successfully the senior crown. He is denying himself a shot at an unprecedented treble.

Bill Smith argues that drafting in triathlon is dangerous and that, because it lessens the chance of a strong cyclist breaking away, "all it is in effect is a run race." He denies that his son's boycott is sour grapes because he is strong on the bike and weaker than his arch rival and fellow Briton, Simon Lessing, on the run. Lessing, the world long-distance champion, is the favourite to succeed Smith next weekend.

Spencer Smith is no stranger to duathlon — a run-bike-run — as he won the European title in 1992 and was third in the world championship in Dallas in 1993. "Taking gold tomorrow would add another world title to my collection," he said.

## COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

### FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.00 unless stated

Pools colour numbers in brackets

FA Cup Round 1

Manchester City v Manchester United

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### Second division

(18) Brentford v Shrewsbury

(19) Burnley v Notts County

(20) Carlisle v Brighton

(21) Chesterfield v Bradford

(22) Hull v Wigan

(23) Hull v Wigan

(24) Oxford v Bristol City

(25) Rotherham v Crewe

(26) Shrewsbury v Walsley

(27) Swindon v Blackpool

(28) Walsley v Walsley

(29) York v Stockport

(30) York v Stockport

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### Third division

(30) Barnet v Doncaster

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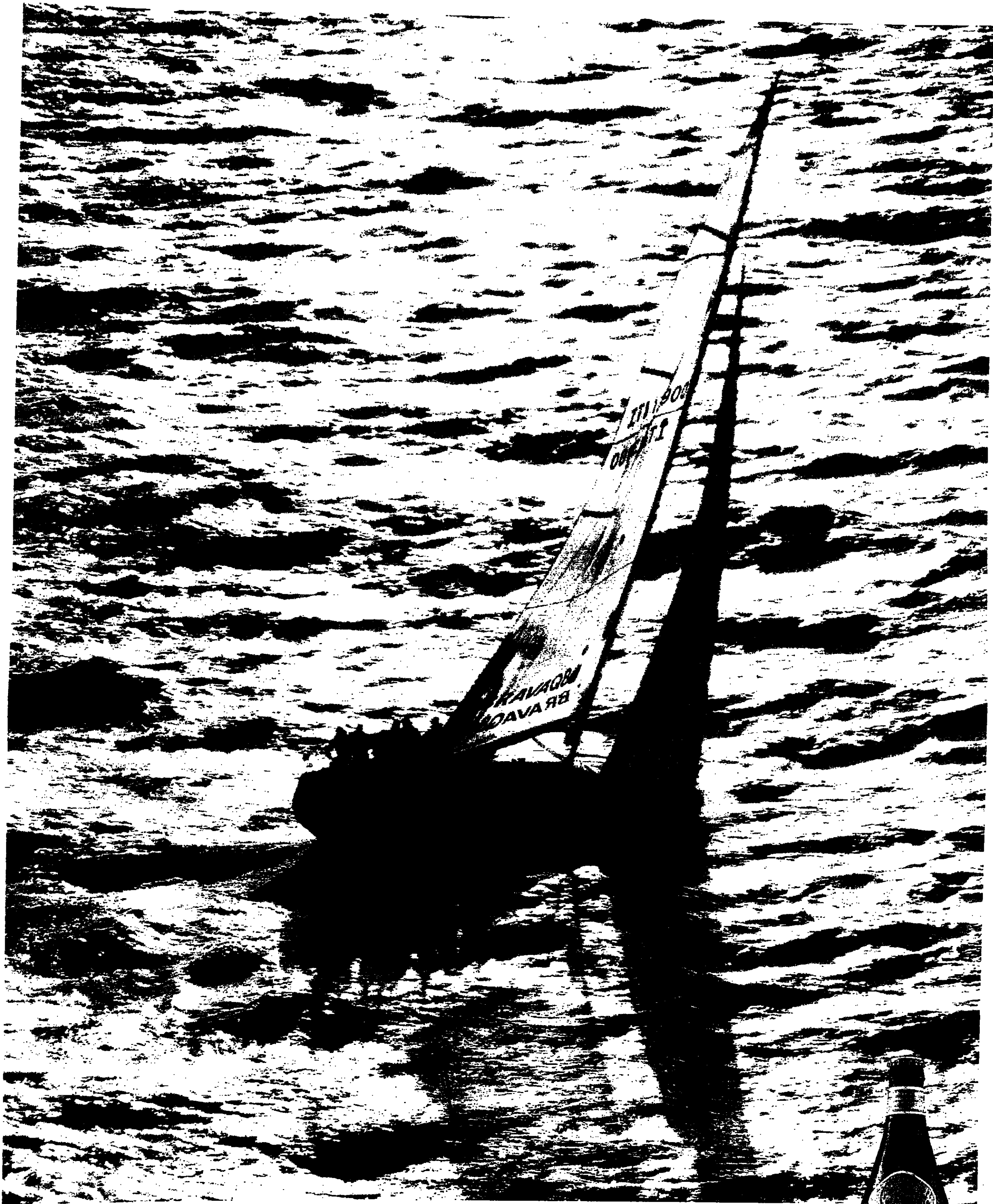
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# Nemuro offers top value in Chepstow showpiece

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the dictionary definitions of value is fair return and Nemuro can offer more than that in the Tote Silver Trophy at Chepstow this afternoon.

Win or lose — and David Elsworth's improving hurdler has a genuine chance of landing this £20,000-added prize — the seven-year-old should not be as big a price as 14-1, being offered by Ladbrokes. So he must rate as today's value bet.

A winner of six races on the Flat in the French provinces, he then went to Ireland where he won over hurdles at Roscommon, before joining Elsworth midway through last season. Not for the first time, Desert Orchid's handler conjured immediate improvement out of his new recruit and, after just being pipped off bottom weight in a valuable Aintree race Nemuro went on to win the Welsh Champion Hurdle over today's course.

On his seasonal reappearance at Kempton three weeks ago, he did particularly well under top weight to finish within eight lengths of the winner, Jalisco, as his saddle slipped at a crucial stage of the race. That run should have put him spot on and the booking of Tony Procter, a

useful conditional jockey, is a bonus.

"We are optimistic. He ran a good race at Kempton and although I don't think the saddle slipping made any difference to the result, I believe he will improve a pound or two for that run," Elsworth said. "I think he has

a good sporting chance, along with two or three others."

Squire Silk is at the top of Elsworth's list of dangers after Andy Turner's best hurdler quickened in eye-catching style to win on his seasonal reappearance at Newbury a fortnight ago. He has sound claims, although that victory came in a slowly run race against only four opponents.

With Hebridean heading the weights, his David Nicholson-trained stablemate, Anzum, will attract support, especially with Adrian Maguire electing to ride. The step up in trip is likely to suit the Andross gelding but all his best form last year was on genuinely soft ground and this is not a race which favours four-year-olds.

Six of the past eight runners of this race have gone to a horse making a seasonal debut. The well-regarded Conquering Leader, winner of three of her four

starts over hurdles last term, is sure to improve but she is 5lb out of the handicap.

At Doncaster, the defection of the top three entries for the November Handicap has prompted a 21lb rise in the weights which has enabled all 19 runners to obtain a genuine racing weight. The pair which have most to gain from the changed shape of the last big handicap of the Flat season are Beauchamp Jade and Snow Princess.

Beauchamp Jade is still a maiden but has returned two excellent efforts after a long summer break and her second to Al Widian at Leicester gives the filly every chance. She has shown her liking for fast ground, unlike many of her opponents, but she may find Snow Princess too good. Lord Huntingdon's filly is thriving after landing three victories inside the past five weeks, and looks weighted to go in again.



Anzum and Maguire are among the leading contenders for the Tote Silver Trophy at Chepstow today

## Cherrynt can collect again

CHEPSTOW

BBC1

1.00: There should be plenty of pace, which may deny Kilbreth and James the First the opportunity to dominate. Run Up The Flag, Old Bridge and Sailor Jim are better over further. Regal Romper's jumping has been keenly, so it is worth risking Pontynsven on his seasonal reappearance. Dai Burdell's runner progressed steadily last time and goes well here.

1.30: Above the best novice chase so far this season sees the Sun Alliance Hurdle runner-up, Berude Not To, and useful Irish import, Hill Of Tullow, make their chugging debuts. Both are sure to win races but experience could count here and Cherrynt, winner of six out of seven point-to-points last season, won a chase in taking style at Worcester a fortnight ago and can follow up.

WINCANTON

CHANNEL 4

2.30: David Elsworth should saddle the first two home in this badly supported race. The question is in which order. Last season, Absalom's Lady beat her stablemate, Atours, twice and lost once. However, the weights today favour Atours, who also has the benefit of having already won this season. Clifton Beat has plenty to do.

3.00: Bas De Laine made an encouraging comeback behind General Rusty after a season off and should progress but Wise Approach can get back on the winning trail. Winner of his last four completed starts, he paid for a rare error at Cheltenham last time but should be better suited by this right-handed track, and longer trip. Brackenfield is an interesting debutant for Paul Nicholls.

2.20 Capias (nap)

2.50 Branson Abby

3.25 Snow Princess

4.00 Merit

## DONCASTER

THUNDERER

12.50 Shamit

1.20 Stop Play

1.50 Seignurial

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.00 MERIT.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.50 SHAMIT (nap), 2.20 Capias, 2.50 Mistle Cat.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

### 12.50 BOC SUREFLOW MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

(2-1-0, £4,189, 1m) (C4 only) (19 runners)

101 (24)	102 (24)	103 (24)	104 (24)	105 (24)	106 (24)	107 (24)	108 (24)	109 (24)	110 (24)	111 (24)	112 (24)	113 (24)	114 (24)	115 (24)	116 (24)	117 (24)	118 (24)	119 (24)	120 (24)	121 (24)	122 (24)	123 (24)	124 (24)	125 (24)	126 (24)	127 (24)	128 (24)	129 (24)	130 (24)	131 (24)	132 (24)	133 (24)	134 (24)	135 (24)	136 (24)	137 (24)	138 (24)	139 (24)	140 (24)	141 (24)	142 (24)	143 (24)	144 (24)	145 (24)	146 (24)	147 (24)	148 (24)	149 (24)	150 (24)	151 (24)	152 (24)	153 (24)	154 (24)	155 (24)	156 (24)	157 (24)	158 (24)	159 (24)	160 (24)	161 (24)	162 (24)	163 (24)	164 (24)	165 (24)	166 (24)	167 (24)	168 (24)	169 (24)	170 (24)	171 (24)	172 (24)	173 (24)	174 (24)	175 (24)	176 (24)	177 (24)	178 (24)	179 (24)	180 (24)	181 (24)	182 (24)	183 (24)	184 (24)	185 (24)	186 (24)	187 (24)	188 (24)	189 (24)	190 (24)	191 (24)	192 (24)	193 (24)	194 (24)	195 (24)	196 (24)	197 (24)	198 (24)	199 (24)	200 (24)	201 (24)	202 (24)	203 (24)	204 (24)	205 (24)	206 (24)	207 (24)	208 (24)	209 (24)	210 (24)	211 (24)	212 (24)	213 (24)	214 (24)	215 (24)	216 (24)	217 (24)	218 (24)	219 (24)	220 (24)	221 (24)	222 (24)	223 (24)	224 (24)	225 (24)	226 (24)	227 (24)	228 (24)	229 (24)	230 (24)	231 (24)	232 (24)	233 (24)	234 (24)	235 (24)	236 (24)	237 (24)	238 (24)	239 (24)	240 (24)	241 (24)	242 (24)	243 (24)	244 (24)	245 (24)	246 (24)	247 (24)	248 (24)	249 (24)	250 (24)	251 (24)	252 (24)	253 (24)	254 (24)	255 (24)	256 (24)	257 (24)	258 (24)	259 (24)	260 (24)	261 (24)	262 (24)	263 (24)	264 (24)	265 (24)	266 (24)	267 (24)	268 (24)	269 (24)	270 (24)	271 (24)	272 (24)	273 (24)	274 (24)	275 (24)	276 (24)	277 (24)	278 (24)	279 (24)	280 (24)	281 (24)	282 (24)	283 (24)	284 (24)	285 (24)	286 (24)	287 (24)	288 (24)	289 (24)	290 (24)	291 (24)	292 (24)	293 (24)	294 (24)	295 (24)	296 (24)	297 (24)	298 (24)	299 (24)	300 (24)	301 (24)	302 (24)	303 (24)	304 (24)	305 (24)	306 (24)	307 (24)	308 (24)	309 (24)	310 (24)	311 (24)	312 (24)	313 (24)	314 (24)	315 (24)	316 (24)	317 (24)	318 (24)	319 (24)	320 (24)	321 (24)	322 (24)	323 (24)	324 (24)	325 (24)	326 (24)	327 (24)	328 (24)	329 (24)	330 (24)	331 (24)	332 (24)	333 (24)	334 (24)	335 (24)	336 (24)	337 (24)	338 (24)	339 (24)	340 (24)	341 (24)	342 (24)	343 (24)	344 (24)	345 (24)	346 (24)	347 (24)	348 (24)	349 (24)	350 (24)	351 (24)	352 (24)	353 (24)	354 (24)	355 (24)	356 (24)	357 (24)	358 (24)	359 (24)	360 (24)	361 (24)	362 (24)	363 (24)	364 (24)	365 (24)	366 (24)	367 (24)	368 (24)	369 (24)	370 (24)	371 (24)	372 (24)	373 (24)	374 (24)	375 (24)	376 (24)	377 (24)	378 (24)	379 (24)	380 (24)	381 (24)	382 (24)	383 (24)	384 (24)	385 (24)	386 (24)	387 (24)	388 (24)	389 (24)	390 (24)	391 (24)	392 (24)	393 (24)	394 (24)	395 (24)	396 (24)	397 (24)	398 (24)	399 (24)	400 (24)	401 (24)	402 (24)	403 (24)	404 (24)	405 (24)	406 (24)	407 (24)	408 (24)	409 (24)	410 (24)	411 (24)	412 (24)	413 (24)	414 (24)	415 (24)	416 (24)	417 (24)	418 (24)	419 (24)	420 (24)	421 (24)	422 (24)	423 (24)	424 (24)	425 (24)	426 (24)	427 (24)	428 (24)	429 (24)	430 (24)	431 (24)	432 (24)	433 (24)	434 (24)	435 (24)	436 (24)	437 (24)	438 (24)	439 (24)	440 (24)	441 (24)	442 (24)	443 (24)	444 (24)	445 (24)	446 (24)	447 (24)	448 (24)	449 (24)	450 (24)	451 (24)	452 (24)	453 (24)	454 (24)	455 (24)	456 (24)	457 (24)	458 (24)	459 (24)	460 (24)	461 (24)	462 (24)	463 (24)	464 (24)	465 (24)	466 (24)	467 (24)	468 (24)	469 (24)	470 (24)	471 (24)	472 (24)	473 (24)	474 (24)	475 (24)	476 (24)	477 (24)	478 (24)	479 (24)	480 (24)	481 (24)	482 (24)	483 (24)	484 (24)	485 (24)	486 (24)	487 (24)	488 (24)	489 (24)	490 (24)	491 (24)	492 (24)	493 (24)	494 (24)	495 (24)	496 (24)	497 (24)	498 (24)	499 (24)	500 (24)	501 (24)	502 (24)	503 (24)	504 (24)	505 (24)	506 (24)	507 (24)	508 (24)	509 (24)	510 (24)	511 (24)	512 (24)	513 (24)	514 (24)	515 (24)	516 (24)	517 (24)	518 (24)	519 (24)	520 (24)	521 (24)	522 (24)	523 (24)	524 (24)	525 (24)	526 (24)	527 (24)	528 (24)	529 (24)	530 (24)	531 (24)	532 (24)	533 (24)	534 (24)	535 (24)	536 (24)	537 (24)	538 (24)	539 (24)	540 (24)	541 (24)	542 (24)	543 (24)	544 (24)	545 (24)	546 (24)	547 (24)	548 (24)	549 (24)	550 (24)	551 (24)	552 (24)	553 (24)	554 (24)	555 (24)	556 (24)	557 (24)	558 (24)	559 (24)	560 (24)	561 (24)	562 (24)	563 (24)	564 (24)	565 (24)	566 (24)	567 (24)	568 (24)	569 (24)	570 (24)	571 (24)	572 (24)	573 (24)	574 (24)	575 (24)	576 (24)	577 (24)	578 (24)	579 (24)	580 (24)	581 (24)	582 (24)	583 (24)	584 (24)	585 (24)	586 (24)	587 (24)	588 (24)	589 (24)	590 (24)	591 (24)	592 (24)	593 (24)	594 (24)	595 (24)	596 (24)	597 (24)	598 (24)	599 (24)	600 (24)	601 (24)	602 (24)	603 (24)	604 (24)	605 (24)	606 (24)	607 (24)	608 (24)	609 (24)	610 (24)	611 (24)	612 (24)	613 (24)	614 (24)	615 (24)	616 (24)	617 (24)	618 (24)	619 (24)	620 (24)	621 (24)	622 (24)	623 (24)	624 (24)	625 (24)	626 (24)	627 (24)	628 (24)	629 (24)	630 (24)	631 (24)	632 (24)	633 (24)	634 (24)	635 (24)	636 (24)	637 (24)	638 (24)	639 (24)	640 (24)	641 (24)	642 (24)	643 (24)	644 (24)	645 (24)	646 (24)	647 (24)	648 (24)	649 (24)	650 (24)	651 (24)	652 (24)	653 (24)	654 (24)	655 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(24)	878 (24)	879 (24)	880 (24)	881 (24)	882 (24)	883 (24)	884 (24)	885 (24)	886 (24)	887 (24)	888 (24)	889 (24)	890 (24)	891 (24)	892 (24)	893 (24)	894 (24)	895 (24)	896 (24)	897 (24)	898 (24)	899 (24)	900 (24)	901 (24)	902 (24)	903 (24)	904 (24)	905 (24)	906 (24)	907 (24)	908 (24)	909 (24)	910 (24)	911 (24)	912 (24)	913 (24)	914 (24)	915 (24)	916 (24)	917 (24)	918 (24)	919 (24)	920 (24)	921 (24)	922 (24)	923 (24)	924 (24)	925 (24)	926 (24)	927 (24)	928 (24)	929 (24)	930 (24)	931 (24)	932 (24)	933 (24)	934 (24)	935 (24)	936 (24)	937 (24)	938 (24)	939 (24)	940 (24)	941 (24)	942 (24)	943 (24)	944 (24)	945 (24)	946 (24)	947 (24)	948 (24)	949 (24)	950 (24)	951 (24)	952 (24)	953 (24)	954 (24)	955 (24)	956 (24)	957 (24)	958 (24)	959 (24)	960 (24)	961 (24)	962 (24)	963 (24)	964 (24)	965 (24)	966 (24)	967 (24)	968 (24)	969 (24)	970 (24)	971 (24)	972 (24)	973 (24)	974 (24)	975 (24)	976 (24)	977 (24)	978 (24)	979 (24)	980 (24)	981 (24)	982 (24)	983 (24)	984 (24)	985 (24)	986 (24)	987 (24)	988 (24)	989 (24)	990 (24)	991 (24)	992 (24)	993 (24)	994 (24)	995 (24)	996 (24)	997 (24)	998 (24)	999 (24)	1000 (24)
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Saturday portrait: Juninho, by Rob Hughes, football correspondent

# Entertaining great hopes of Brazilian in Mannion's image

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN



He will stand on Teesside this afternoon before a welcoming committee of 30,000 Middlesbrough folk. Those in the highest seats of the new Riverside Stadium had better take field-glasses. For down below, in the centre circle, they will see, and they will hope to cheer for many a day, Juninho, one of the smallest but most appreciable talents in the game of football.

He stands 1.64 metres, a little above 5ft 4in. He scales just over nine stone after a hearty meal. He wears a child's boots. But boy, can Juninho play, and how, in this moment when British football at last admits to widespread humility, it needs to see him.

Juninho is no child. He turned 22 last February, and though a physical lightweight, he has been competing for São Paulo in the Brazilian league where, as his new manager, Bryan Robson, has been witness, the tackles that have attempted to foreshorten even his frame have sometimes been so crude, so cynical, they make David Batty look like a mild English bulldog.

But focus in on the player. At his side when he is introduced today will be Jan Aage Fjørtoft, the Norwegian, who said: "We will help him. Not because we want to be Mother Teresa, but we need his quality, we need his personality."

Fjørtoft, who arrived with plenty of bulk and muscle, admitted that transition from anywhere to the bustle of the English game is tough. But the Norwegian, the little Brazilian and the demanding Englishman all acknowledge that there are no questions about the size of Juninho's heart, none about his quickness to evade the crude tackles, or about his willingness to make monkeys out of those who would scythe him down.

As a special talent, Juninho wears in the Brazil national team the shirt of shirts, the No 10 formerly the preserve of Pelé. He, now the Sports Minister of Brazil, has called Juninho the finest talent in the modern game. So has Mario Zagalo, who, associated with Brazil for 36 years and through four World Cup-winning teams, astonished even his own countrymen

when, 18 months ago, he handed that shirt to this player.

"Who's the little boy wearing the No 10?" Dunga, the Schwarzenegger of Brazilian football and the national captain, asked. An hour and a half later, after Juninho's inauguration in Brazil's colours, Dunga had the grace to go down on his knees, to tell Juninho that now he saw what the veteran Zagalo saw, that he would never doubt his right or his ability again.

Taken in dressing-room jest, it was of course exaggerated. But Juninho himself is prone to that. When the media pushed and prodded him about his diminutive size when first Juninho visited the docklands stadium to where Middlesbrough have relocated, this Tom Thumb figure, dressed for the first time in Middlesbrough red, stuck out his Bruce Forsyth chin and said determinedly: "I'm

**'He wants to be the best player in the world and he does not fear the biting wind on Teesside'**

two inches bigger than Maradona."

The little liar. At full stretch he may be a shade taller than Diego Maradona. But Argentina's maestro has the muscular hulk of a bull; Juninho has the sinewy frame of a whipper. He relies on fleetness, courage, and on bold imagination to outwit the body-wreckers.

He wants to become the best player in the world. No equivocation, no doubt. He does not fear the biting northerly wind, and he counters that he will bring plenty of gloves, coats and scarves. He swears that, though samba and sertaneja (a Latin-American form of country music) are the core of what moves him, football is a sport best played in the cold.

He could have fooled us, for seemingly ever since Charles Miller, a Scottish student, took a ball out to São Paulo a century

ago, the British have wondered how they would ever get it back off these gifted people, these marvelous improvisers.

Robson has paid £4.75 million, a Brazilian record, to pair the Latin continent's bewitching elf with the closest these islands has in that age group, Nick Barmby. For that money he lands Osvaldo Giroldo Junior — for that is his christened name, Juninho, meaning little boy, is the obvious nickname. The family comes too, for the greatest challenge to this player's integration into such a foreign clime is that he never left the modest family home in São Paulo's East End location of Parque São Lucas. There, with his father, Osvaldo Giroldo Sr, his mother, Lucia, and sister, Gisela, he was never allowed to think of himself as a star. Such is the close-knit community of this working-class, pollution-ridden sector of São Paulo that the player whose earnings have suddenly rocketed fivefold (reportedly to £13,000 per week) would never be allowed to increase the size of his head.

What are the British, who have lost the feel for their game, expecting from him? Those who witnessed the Umbro Cup last June were immediately captivated by this player, who drew particular attention from Barry Venison.

Injured at the time, and thus out of the England squad, Venison gave the benefit of his expertise on television. "We need David Batty to upset them," he warned of the Brazilians. True to form Batty did try to put his mark on Juninho. It was England's undoing. Twice the stretcher came on for Juninho. Twice Juninho trotted back onto the field, a little sparrow with a big constitution. He turned the match, first with a sorcerer's free kick that swerved over the defensive wall in the manner even Brazilians thought was lost to history. Then Juninho approached England's young right back, Gary Neville, flicked the ball over the defender, scampered beneath Neville's arm-pit and repossessed the round object that he has been besotted with throughout his lifetime.

Brazilians, though, had doubted that Juninho would grow tall enough to make it in football. Just

as Bryan Robson was rejected as too skinny for Newcastle United as an adolescent, so Juninho was cast aside, made to travel 80 kilometres to a part-time provincial team, Etuano. Then, at 20, he entered the big league in São Paulo, not with Corinthians, who had turned him away in boyhood, but with the São Paulo club, managed by Telé Santana.

He is the proudest protector of the joy in *jogo bonito*, pretty play, that the world game possesses. "Small Juninho may be," Santana

said last month, "but he feared nobody, nor anything." Santana decided that even the food prepared by Juninho's mother, rice and black beans, was not the full answer. He sent Juninho to the big-city biochemists, put him through excruciating weight-training and body-building and, though the visual results appear negligible, Juninho is grateful to Santana for that care and trusting attention.

Sometime soon, if it has not already happened, Juninho will

spot a frail old-timer at the Riverside Stadium. He will see how this man's presence is held in awe. When he asks, when they meet, Juninho will learn that this is Wilf Mannion, the inside forward who scored 11 goals from 26 games for England and who, some say, was Brazilian-born and raised and made godlike on Teesside.

Mannion played 350 times for Middlesbrough from 1936 to 1954 and scored 110 goals. They say he had balletic balance, a hypnotic affinity with the ball, an inner

toughness. Juninho, whose tally is 15 goals in 101 São Paulo matches, comes with a tall reputation but with much to live up to and things to learn. "He will probably know only four or five words," Fjørtoft said, "he will know pound, and thank you, and goodbye." But the word that we should learn, by three o'clock this afternoon, is *bemvindo* — welcome. With 30,000 Teessiders roaring him on, the young Brazilian might even reach two inches taller than Maradona.

## THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

**ARSENAL v MANCHESTER UNITED**

Carlton has been almost subdued since returning from his 248 days 18 hours and 57 minutes in exile last at least Keane has maintained the recent United tradition for seeing red mist. Rumours abound that Don King, he of the electric hair, is considering a vice-presidency at Old Trafford. Today's game will test the temper of a saint, United having lost players — Hughes and Cantona — to dismissals in successive league matches at Highbury. Platt will start for Arsenal, for the first time since August, instead of Parlor or Keown.

**LAST SEASON:** Arsenal 0 Manchester Utd 0.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 1-2, 1-0, 1-2, 2-1, 1-0, 3-1, 1-0, 1-1, 0-1, 2-2, 0-0.

**ARSENAL (from):** D Seaman, L Dixon, A Adams, S Bould, N Winterburn, P Marston, R Parlor, M Keown, D Platt, G Helder, D Bergkamp, I Wright, J Hartson, J Jensen, V Barmby.

**MANCHESTER UTD (from):** P Schmeichel, G Neville, S Bruce, G Pallister, D Irwin, R Keane, N Butt, E Cantona, F Keogh, A Cole, P Scholes, D Beckham, L Sharpe, B McClair, P Neville, K Pilkington.

**CHELSEA v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY**

Chelsea have finally concluded the signing of Dan Petrescu after conflicting medical reports put the £2.5 million deal on hold. Trouble is, the Romanian defender cannot play against his former club today because his work permit has not come through. Shame, a touch of apoplexy would not have gone amiss in this distinctly drab-looking fixture, with Chelsea having leaked seven goals in their past two Premiership outings and Wednesday having won only once in six. Has all the marriage of Yarnville, USA.

**LAST SEASON:** Chelsea 1 Sheffield Wed 1.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 2-1, 2-0, 2-1, 1-0, 4-0, 0-3, 0-2, 1-1, 1-1.

**CHELSEA (from):** D Kluene, R Gullis, S Clarke, G Hall, E Johnson, D Lee, F Sinclair, A Barnes, A Myers, N Spackman, G Peacock, D Wise, C Burley, E Newton, M Stein, M Hughes, J Spencer, P Furlong.

**SHEFFIELD WED (from):** K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, D Walker, K Hugheson, A Sinton, M Pennington, C Weddie, M Williams, D Hirst, G Whittingham, M Bright, A Pearce, L Briscoe, M Degryse, O Donaldson.

**COVENTRY v TOTTENHAM**

Tottenham's capitulation, from 2-0 up to 3-2 down, in their Coca-Cola Cup third-round tie at Highbury Road ten days ago must rank as one of the most abject surrenders of the season. Or perhaps, from a Sky Blue viewpoint, one of the most stirring fights. Goals aplenty are again likely this afternoon, with Coventry's Premiership form horrendous and Tottenham having subsequently scorched the demons with a 1-1 draw against Newcastle United. If Big Ron loses Ndlovu with a hamstring injury, forget another home win.

**LAST SEASON:** Coventry 0 Tottenham 4.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 2-3, 4-3, 2-1, 1-1, 0-0, 2-0, 1-2, 1-0, 1-0, 0-4.

**COVENTRY (from):** J Flann, A Plesinger, D Buss, D Rennie, M Hall, P Telfer, P Williams, K Richardson, J Selside, D Dudgeon, P Ndlovu, M Iles, N Lamptey, J Darby, W Bolland, D Burrows, J Gould.

**TOTTENHAM (from):** I Walker, D Austin, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, C Wilson, J Dozzell, D Dummett, D Howells, D Forsdale, R Rosenthal, S Campbell, G McMahon, R Fox, C Armstrong, E Sherrington.

**MANCHESTER CITY v BOLTON**

"We're doomed, we're doomed," Corporal Fraser lamented constantly in *Dad's Army*. City supporters must feel the same, after only 11 Premiership matches and with Alan Ball in permanent wings mode. He was at it again yesterday, after the advisors of Thomas Cheltenham, a hotelier from Banbury, send their wage demands to Maine Road. "It was absolutely ridiculous," Ball bellowed. "We've let them know our feelings and told them the matter is closed." Bolton could inflict more grief this afternoon.

**LAST SEASON:** No game.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** No fixtures.

**MANCHESTER CITY (from):** E Innes, J Foster, K Gullis, K Symons, R Edgell, S Jones, G Knibbs, G Fitzcarrald, N Summerville, N Quinn, U Röller, M Brown, G Cranney, M Margatson.

**BOLTON (from):** K Bransgore, G McManis, C Fiddaugh, G Baggerson, J Phillips, A Stubbs, P Thompson, S Garside, A Lee, M Pennington, J McGinlay, M Patterson, S Green, F DeFalles, A Dawson.

**MIDDLESBROUGH v LEEDS**

Twenty-one players might as well not turn up at the Riverside Stadium today. All eyes will be on Osvaldo Giroldo Junior, the Juninho, the baby-faced Brazilian who will fit among the cloggers and show the Premiership how to party. Santos fever is here. Tell that to Craig Hignett, scorer of six goals this season and the player that Bryan Robson is most likely to see for Middlesbrough's newly-adapted son. If Robbo gives Higgs the heave-ho, he can expect a knock on his office door first thing Monday morning.

**LAST SEASON:** No fixture.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 2-2, 2-0, 0-2, 4-1.

**MIDDLESBROUGH (from):** G Walsh, N Cox, S Vickers, N Pearson, P Whelan, C Morris, N Barmby, J Pollock, J A Fjørtoft, R Mustoe, Juninho, C Hignett, A Moore, C Moreno, C Liddle.

**LEEDS (from):** J Luke, G Kelly, D Wetherill, R Johnson, J Pemberton, N Worthington, B Deane, C Palmer, G McAllister, A Couzens, A Yeobah, N Whelan, R Bowman, P Beasley, P Masinga, M Beany.

**NEWCASTLE v LIVERPOOL**

Big names, big game — a meeting that could steal some of the thunder from Juninho's public bow down the A1 at Middlesbrough. "It's a special occasion," Kevin Keegan said, "it sets your spine tingling." Both clubs suffered hiccup this week — Newcastle at Tottenham in the Premiership, Liverpool against Bolton in the Ufa Cup — and their followers will need swift reassurances that all is well. Collymore has not gone awol, according to Roy Evans, and will be in the Liverpool squad if he suits up.

**LAST SEASON:** Newcastle 1 Liverpool 1.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 1-0, 0-2, 1-2, 2-2, 2-0, 1-1.

**NEWCASTLE (from):** S Hiscox, W Barton, J Beardsford, D Peacock, S Howey, S Gillespie, R Lee, L Clark, D Ginola, L Ferdinand, P Beardsley, R Elliott, S Sellers, P Abbott, P Smicak.

**LIVERPOOL (from):** J Lister, G Kelly, D Wetherill, R Johnson, J Pemberton, S Hargreaves, S McManis, A Barnes, J Redknapp, I Rush, R Fowler, S Collymore, N Ruddock, M Kennedy, A Warner.

**SOUTHAMPTON v QPR**

Ray Wilkins reckons 15 minutes is too long to spend in the dressing-room at half-time. "I'd rather have five minutes out in the middle like those rugby chaps," he said. Super idea, Ray. At the moment, Matthew Le Tissier needs as much time as he can get to release his body and soul, such is his apparent disenchantment with life. Still, at least he has agreed another 12 months on the three-year contract he signed in May last year, which may well keep him at the singly Dell for the rest of his career. Some players are easily pleased.

**LAST SEASON:** Southampton 3 QPR 1.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 3-0, 5-1, 0-1, 1-4, 0-2, 3-1, 2-1, 1-2, 0-1, 2-1.

**SOUTHAMPTON (from):** D Bassett, J Dodd, F Benall, K Moriku, J Magallon, R Hall, B Venison, M Le Tissier, N Mackdonald, G Weston, N Shipperley, N Heaney, D Hughes, P Tisdale, F Barnett, G Grobbelaar.

**QPR (from):** J Sommer, D Bardsley, K Reddy, S Vass, D Mordred, McDonald, R Bennett, S Barber, A Imprey, N Zaire, R Wilkins, J Holloway, T Sinclair, K Gallen, D Dichio, S Osborn, M Brazier, A Roberts.

**WEST HAM v ASTON VILLA**

Are West Ham, five matches unbeaten in the Premiership, heading for mid-table obscurity and the prospect of no relegation worries in the new year? Harry Redknapp believes so and, for once, has the statistics to back his claims. Somehow, it will not seem the same without a back-to-back win against the well-but-we'll-show-'em light at Upton Park. Villa visit this afternoon, with their early season surge having tapered off into a none-to-convincing seventh place. West Ham's new-found confidence should see them off.

**LAST SEASON:** West Ham 1 Aston Villa 0.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 4-1, 1-1, 2-2, 3-4, 0-0, 1-0.

**WEST HAM (from):** L Miodusko, S Potts, M Rippey, A Martin, J Dicks, R Slater, J Monaghan, D Hutchinson, J Bishop, A Cullen, A Hughes, D Williamson, M Boag, J Hartson, R Rowland, L Sealey, S Tazewell.

**ASTON VILLA (from):** M Bonnici, G Charles, U Ehiogu, G Southgate, P McGrath, A Wright, J Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, S Miodusko, D Yorke, R Sotoca, J Johnson, N Spink.

**HOW THEY STAND**

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle	11	28	+19	WWWWD
2 Manchester Utd	11	26	+12	DDWWW
3 Liverpool	11	23	+16	WDWWW
4 Arsenal	11	21	+9	WLWWL
5 Nottm Forest	11	21	+7	DDWWW
6 Middlesbrough	11	21	+5	WWWWD
7 Aston Villa	11	20	+5	DDLLW
8 Leeds	11	20	+4	WWLDW
9 Tottenham	11	16	+2	WWLDD
10 Crystal Palace	11	15	-3	LDWLW
11 Blackburn	11	14	+1	WLWDW
12 West Ham	11	13	-2	LWWDD
13 Sheffield Wed	11	11	-4	LDLLW
14 QPR	11	10	-7	LWLDD
15 Wimbledon	11	10	-10	LLDLL
16 Everton	11	9	-4	LLDLD
17 Southampton	11	9	-8	LLWLW
18 Bolton	11	8	-10	LLDLW
19 Coventry	11	7	-13	LLDLL
20 Manchester City	11	2	-18	LLDLL

**NOTTINGHAM FOREST v WIMBLEDON**

Joe Kinner, Wimbledon's beleaguered manager, has already used 24 players in the Premiership this season. He may have to enlist a few more — apparently, A Telesky is available on Wednesday — if the crisis of *Cashy's* proportions does not subside soon. Forest, Britain's finest club and only club left in Europe, carry on remorselessly, seeking their 25th successive Premiership match without defeat. Everything points to a Forest victory unless Kinner can call on the Crazy Gang spirit of old. Nothing less will do.

**LAST SEASON:** Nottingham Forest 3 Wimbledon 1.

**10-YEAR RECORD:** 3-2, 0-0, 0-1, 0-1, 2-1, 4-2, 1-1, 3-1.

**NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from):** M Croxall, D Lytle, C Cooper, S Christie, S Pearce, S Stone, C Bart-Williams, I Wain, J Lee, S Roy, S Garmah, A Heston, D Phillips, A Sheen, P McGovern, M Hignett.

**WIMBLEDON (from):** P Heston, K Cunniff, A Kinnear, G Ellis, C Perry, A Reeves, Y Jones, R Earle, O Leonardson, M Gayle, D Holdsworth, A Clarke, M Harford, G Bisset, J Goodman, J Eust.

**WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION**

**10.45pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)**

**12 noon Sky Sports Goals on Sunday**

**3pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday**

**Everton v Blackburn (live)**

**7pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday Night Football**

**Nottingham Forest v Wimbledon (live)**

Compiled by Russell Knapton and Julian Duggan



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# Campaign kicks off to defeat Bosman findings

By JOHN GOODBODY

FOOTBALL authorities yesterday began lobbying European governments because they fear that the final judgment on the Jean-Marc Bosman case will split the game in two and destroy its future.

Early next year it is likely to be confirmed that football's transfer system and the restrictions on the number of foreign players employed by clubs are illegal under the laws of the European Union. The ruling is expected to undermine transfers — £80 million was spent last summer by English clubs alone.

However, while waiting for the verdict of the European Court of Justice on these employment regulations, Uefa, the European governing body of football, has asked members to urge their governments to make an exception of sport.

The European Court case arose after Bosman, a Belgian player with RFC Liege, completed a two-year contract. He was offered a new deal at a quarter of his previous salary

and, when he declined, was prevented from leaving by the price the club put on his head. Graham Kelly, chief executive of the Football Association, said yesterday that letters had been sent to the Prime Minister, the National Heritage Department and the opposition parties, urging the European Commission to set aside the recommendation made six weeks ago by Carl

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Otto Lenz, the Advocate-General of the European Court. Kelly warned against the effects of scrapping the present rules that ensure that at least six players in every team participating in European competition are of the club's nationality and, also, that a fee is paid by one club to another when a player is transferred.

Uefa said in an open letter that the organisation would be

split into two sections, those countries inside and those outside the community. "The European Union associations will also be placed in a different position from the rest of the world."

In Lenz's interpretation of the employment rules, any club within the union should be able to field as many players from another member state as it wishes. Transfer fees should only be paid when a contract is still in force.

Kelly said that the effects of this opinion would be to concentrate the leading players in a "relatively small number of rich clubs, thereby reducing competition between clubs". This would harm the development of young players.

Uefa, in a letter signed by the 49 presidents of the national football associations, claimed that hundreds of middle-sized and smaller clubs may go out of existence. Many of them have only remained solvent by selling their best players to bigger clubs.

The small clubs were also bound to abandon their expensive youth teams and youth training schemes, causing a "major vacuum" in the training of young people to professional standards.

In Scotland, Rangers disagree with the view of the Scottish Football Association (SFA), which follows the Uefa line. Jim Farry, the chief executive of the SFA, warned: "If our champions believe that, in scrapping the foreigner rule, it will bring them more success in Europe, they are ill-judged. The big-fish-in-a-pond syndrome could rapidly become a wee fish in a big pool."

Under the present system, any club can sign as many foreign players as it likes. However, it cannot field more than three foreign players plus two assimilated players in any one match. An assimilated player is one who has played for five years in that country, including three years in junior teams.

The football authorities admitted that the transfer system needed some amendments, and these were being discussed with the European Players' Union, but they said the system generally worked very well.



A determined Durie drives a forehand during her defeat by Smith in the semi-finals at Telford yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

## Rusedski happy in role of pied piper

By STUART JONES  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

SELDOM, if ever, will the national championships have featured such sustained quality as today's programme at Telford. The country's top four men are to meet in the semi-finals and the women's final is to match the established No 1 against her heir apparent.

The three duels promise to bring towards a fitting conclusion a week in which domestic interest has been raised to unprecedented levels. The principal attraction has been the inaugural appearance of Greg Rusedski, happily filling his role as the ingratiating pied piper.

The 22-year-old yesterday suffered the ultimate sanction of being ordered off the centre court by the Wimbledon referee, Alan Mills. Rusedski is so eager to please that, in other circumstances, such an ignominy would have been considered little short of a sensational development. The top seed was not causing an

offence, though. He was merely disrupting the schedule by handing out headbands and signing the host of autograph books thrust at him by star-struck youngsters. Mills ordered him to leave the arena.

On his day off, Rusedski had willingly given a clinic to 25 Shropshire juniors, playing a couple of friendly games against each of them. "At heart, I'm a little kid, running around and hitting a ball," he said. "Sometimes I can relate to them more than adults."

Complimentary about everything concerning his adopted home since changing allegiances five months ago, he paid tribute to his last two opponents. He believes that Tom Spinks, who took a set off him in the second round, and Luke Milligan, beaten 6-4, 6-2, both have genuine potential.

There will be less bonhomie in the air during his semi-final, however. He plays Mark Petchey, who publicly objected to Rusedski being allowed to represent Britain

and took no small delight in spoiling his home debut by knocking him out of the Queen's tournament in June.

"I stand by what I said then," he said after eliminating Colin Beecher 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, "but life moves on and it (the controversy) has petered out. I'll be fired up, though, because every time you play him, you want to make a point. Male ego comes into it."

"He's such a confident character and his game is built on confidence. Depending on

how you react to it, it can get in your face. He has a presence here, he hasn't offended anyone, he has a good public image and he has a lot of fans because he's a very good player."

Petchey insisted that their rivalry is neither malicious nor personal. They practised together earlier in the week, but the other semi-final will be far more amicable, albeit as competitive. Jeremy Bates and Tim Henman are the top seeds in the doubles event.

Henman dismissed Jamie Delgado 6-3, 6-3 before expressing an ambition. He has never beaten or even taken a set off Bates, who is seeking his seventh and last title, and is keen to break the sequence before his rival retires. This may be his last chance.

Bates, the No 2 seed, is ranked lower than Henman in the world and is performing with a damaged right wrist. Nevertheless, he dismissed Barry Cowan, 6-2, 7-6, and is the only one of the remaining quartet yet to drop a set.

Clare Wood, the top seed, has been told that her injured right leg will never be as strong as her left, but she reached the final for the third time. She has yet to lose there, a record threatened by Samantha Smith.

Wood ended the unexpected progress of Amanda Janes, the unseeded 17-year-old daughter of the former Wimbledon runner-up, Christine. The score, 6-3, 6-3, is deceptive. The novice held a point to lead 3-2 in the first set and she was 3-1 ahead in the second.

Smith ended Jo Durie's participation in an event she has won seven times. The 35-year-old disguised her lack of mobility with her guile and she was initially assisted by "a massive tactical error" by her opponent.

"I decided to hit the ball as hard as I could," Smith said. "Afterwards I found out that her knees are so bad that she can't chip and charge, so that policy was a waste of time." Down 4-0, she recovered to win 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 in two hours.

### RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES: Quarter-finals: G Rusedski (unseeded) vs L Milligan (unseeded) 6-4, 6-2; J Bates (unseeded) vs B Cowan (unseeded) 6-2, 7-6; M Petchey (unseeded) vs C Beecher (unseeded) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3; T Henman (unseeded) vs J Delgado (unseeded) 6-3, 6-3.  
MEN'S DOUBLES: Semi-finals: M Henman (unseeded) vs S Smith (unseeded) and A Richardson (unseeded) vs P Hard (unseeded) and G Henderson (unseeded) 6-3, 4-6, 8-6; Bates and Henman vs J Spinks (unseeded) and Beecher 6-1, 6-2.  
WOMEN'S SINGLES: Semi-finals: C Wood (unseeded) vs J Janes (unseeded) 6-3, 6-3; S Smith (unseeded) vs J Durie (unseeded) 5-7, 6-1, 6-2.  
WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Semi-finals: S-A Siddons (unseeded) and A Wainwright (unseeded) vs L AH (unseeded) and J Ward (unseeded) 6-2, 6-2.

## Forest avoid big guns in third-round draw

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

NOTTINGHAM Forest, the sole surviving English club in European competition this season, avoided the main protagonists in the Uefa Cup third-round draw yesterday. They were paired with Lyons and thus, for the second successive tie, will play French opponents.

However, unlike in their 1-0 aggregate victory against Auxerre in the previous round, Forest will not have the advantage of playing the second leg at the City Ground. Lyons will stage the return on December 5. The first leg is on November 21.

Jean-Michel Aulas, the Lyons president, said: "It's a very difficult draw because Forest have a good record in European competition and, like all English clubs, a good record against French teams. It could be tough but we hope at least to score a goal in the first leg."

Forest were somewhat fortunate to reach the last 16. Steve Stone's early goal in the first leg proving decisive in a contest that Auxerre largely dominated, home and away. Lyons defeated Farense, of Portugal, 2-0 on aggregate in the first round before an overall 4-1 success against Lazio, in which they won 2-0 in Italy in the second leg.

Though Forest, priced at 25-1 to win the cup, should be wary of assuming that they can reach the quarter-finals, they will be grateful to have missed Bayern Munich, Benfica, PSV Eindhoven, AC Milan and Werder Bremen at this stage. Pick of the round is Bayern against Benfica, clubs that have won the European Cup five times between them.

DRAW: Bayern Munich v Benfica, Bordeaux v Real Betis, Brondby v Roma, PSV Eindhoven v Werder Bremen, AC Milan v Sporting Portugal, Nottingham Forest v Lyons. First leg to be played on November 21 and December 5.

## New survey reveals wide abuse of drugs

By JOHN GOODBODY

ONE in four young professional footballers take social drugs, ranging from cannabis and cocaine to crack and LSD, a television programme will claim tomorrow.

The Football Association, which has been concerned over the past year both with the confession of Paul Merson that he took cocaine and also by the number of positive tests for recreational drugs, may be further shaken by the new survey of 100 youngsters with London clubs.

The London Programme also states that two internationalists — Chris Waddle, of Sheffield Wednesday, and Dennis Wise, of Chelsea — have been targeted by pushers.

The confidential survey was carried out by London Weekend Television on 100 players aged 16 to 18. They were all from London clubs and attended Kingsway College, King's Cross, where they study when not training.

A total of 92 per cent have been offered drugs and 26 per cent have taken drugs. Of the drug-takers, the breakdown of users was: cannabis 82 per cent, Ecstasy 25 per cent, amphetamines 14 per cent, cocaine 11 per cent, crack and/or LSD 3 per cent.

A spokeswoman for the Football Association said: "One in four young professional footballers in London may have experimented with drugs, but this should be put into context. Seven out of ten youngsters in Manchester have experimented. This is not just a football problem."

## Victory for Bowe would hammer home heavyweight superiority

Srikumar Sen in Las Vegas believes the  
best boxer in the division should prove too  
strong for an ageing Evander Holyfield

Riddick Bowe is the best heavyweight boxer in the world. Far better than any of those who hold titles from various other world bodies. Indeed, Bowe has knocked out Bruce Seldon, the World Boxing Association (WBA) champion, in one round.

There is little doubt that he would deal with Frank Bruno, the World Boxing Council (WBC) champion, and Axel Schulz, the International Boxing Federation (IBF) champion, in similar fashion, if those two organisations allowed Bowe, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) champion, to fight their title-holders. But, because of politics, that can never happen.

Only three men can legitimately question Bowe's claim. They are Evander Holyfield, Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson. Bowe sets out to underline his superiority over Holyfield in a non-title fight here tonight.

Of course, Holyfield's standing has declined somewhat after defeat last year by Michael Moorer, who is not quite in the class of Lewis and Tyson. Holyfield retired after that bout with a heart ailment and returned only five months ago, claiming that he had been cured by a faith healer. Holyfield had been diagnosed as having a non-compliant left ventricle but doctors found that he was indeed better after seeing the faith healer.

"God has restored me," Holyfield said. "I'm thankful God has allowed me to go back to doing something I enjoy doing. They took away my licence but God saw fit to restore me."

When, in his return fight, he met Ray Mercer, who is not highly regarded these days, Holyfield struggled for several rounds and was almost stopped when a cut opened by his right eye. But, with typical Holyfield determination, he fought back to win a points decision.

"I wasn't sure or confident during the fight," Holyfield said. "Once I got cut, I knew I was in a do-or-die situation and had to pick it up. That fact gives me confidence I can do it again if I have to."

Drew Docherty, the British bantamweight champion, is to box on despite the death of his most recent opponent, James Murray. Murray, 25, suffered a blood clot and died on October 15, two days after the bout, after failing to regain consciousness. Docherty, 29, said yesterday: "I have decided to carry on boxing mainly because of the reaction of James Murray's father, Kenny, and my own parents, Archie and Maureen." Docherty is to see a bereavement counsellor before his return to the ring.

Then he said something that raised eyebrows: "I'm hoping that this one will be the fight of the year, without it having to be as gruelling as those other fights of the year."

He was referring to the two other encounters with Bowe. But his remark seemed to show that he might not be the Holyfield of old.

While it is difficult to question Holyfield's right to fight Bowe, there are doubts about whether he has enough left in him to test a man who, at 26, is seven years younger

than him and still improving. There are those who believed that, because of his heart problem, Holyfield should have stayed away from the ring. With career earnings of \$111 million (£72 million), he could certainly have afforded to retire. The \$9 million he is receiving for this contest would not exactly make a difference to his lifestyle.

The last two contests between Holyfield and Bowe were epic battles and the score stands at 1-1. According to the computer, Bowe looks

to have the edge. "I'm going to take Bowe out," Holyfield said. "There's no doubt about it. The fight will definitely not go 12. I'll be the victor."

At the weigh-in on Thursday, Holyfield looked in tremendous shape, coming in at 213 pounds. Bowe weighed 240, which is only five pounds heavier than he was for the first encounter with Holyfield and means that he, too, has been training seriously. "I'm just as motivated, but in a different sense," Bowe said. "I know what happened last time and I don't want it to happen again. That's all the motivation I need."

"Evander has tremendous heart and can take a great punch, but I can't let a smaller man whip me no more."

Bowe's trainer, Eddie Futch said: "When he beat Holyfield, Riddick showed all his skills but, before the next fight, he lost his toughness. A cut eye and back injury kept him out of action for six months before the rematch. I had to start the training process all over again."

"In his first fight, he was hanging on every word I said, but, once they get experience, they think they can do it on their own. Riddick thought he could blow Holyfield away the second time. He needs to be hit and box as he did in the first fight. If he does, good things will come."

If Bowe can repeat the kind of performance he gave against Jorge Gonzales, the Cuban whom everyone else was avoiding and whom he knocked down in six rounds, he should stop Holyfield around the eighth round.

## Manchester overcomes late snag on Games bid

By JOHN GOODBODY

MANCHESTER yesterday gained some compensation for failing with two Olympic bids when the city was awarded the 2002 Commonwealth Games. It will be the first time since 1934 that England has staged the Games.

The Commonwealth Games Federation, comprising 51 member nations, voted unanimously for Manchester, which was the sole candidate after Australia and South Africa decided not to bid.

However, Manchester had to overcome a late hitch. The city had not wanted to include shooting on the programme, but New Zealand led about 40 countries in asking that the decision should be reconsidered. Manchester eventually agreed to the request.

Michael Fennell, the chairman of the federation, told the delegates in Bermuda that he had been "extremely impressed with Manchester's facilities".

The Games will open on July 25 and close on August 4 and will include athletics, badminton, bowls, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, judo, shooting, squash, swimming, table tennis, triathlon, weightlifting, and wrestling among individual events. There will also be team sports, which will include netball.

Manchester plans to break even on a £56 million budget, although there will be two large capital investments by the Sports Council. One will be an aquatic centre in Wigan and the other an athletics stadium in Eastlands, on the city's outskirts.

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THEY'RE BURNING THE POPE IN LEWES TONIGHT

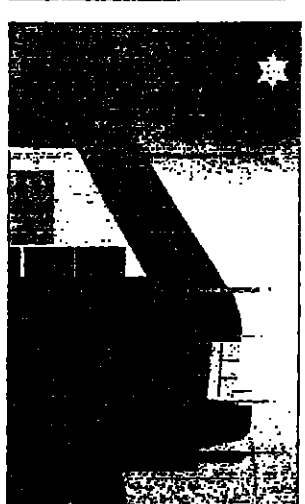


They're  
burning  
the Pope  
in Lewes  
tonight

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PLUS: Derwent May's  
Feather Report, page 4

FOLLIES AND ISLES TO ESCAPE TO THIS CHRISTMAS



Follies  
and isles  
to escape  
to this  
Christmas

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PLUS: Two views of  
Australia, page 18

THE JAILER WHO BECAME MANDELA'S FRIEND



The jailer  
who  
became  
Mandela's  
friend

Page 15

PLUS: Kaufman on  
Hattersley, page 14

STREET-CRED BIKES TO DELIGHT THE CHILDREN



Street-cred  
bikes to  
delight  
the  
children

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PLUS: Food by post for  
Christmas, page 6

# WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4 1995



**R**udyard Kipling, whose lucent books are not now read in India, wrote the following lines, which struck me fiercely as a boy. They are from his *Epitaphs of the War*, to a Hindu sepoy in France:

*This man in his own country prayed we know not to what Powers.  
We pray Them to reward him for his bravery in ours.*

These lines made my throat go dry, from boyish pride and awkward grief. The dead soldier's powers, you see, were my powers too.

By a process that Kipling would understand better than the modern Indians who do not read him, those powers have now arrived in Neasden. An Indian temple — built of

marble, granite and limestone — has come, crumb by careful crumb, to a clumsy English suburb. At 54-62 Meadow Garth (off the Brentfield Road), London NW10 8HD, a do-it-yourself place of worship sits congruously within sight of the IKEA home-furnishing tower; a raucous Eng... land roar away — or a pop-star's sordid shout — from Wembley stadium. The Hindu religion has ever aimed at accommodating itself to circumstances.

Neasden, one might say, is a most intriguing circumstance. Satirical *Private Eye* magazine's cultural punching bag — "Naffville" or, better, "Naffabad" — is home today to thousands of Indians, most from East Africa. It has Britain's richest seam of Patels, Shans and Desais, all of whom

By Tunku Varadarajan

arrived in 1972 with just £5 in their pockets (as public legend would have it), a worriedly crammed suitcase in one hand, Ugandan expulsion orders in the other.

Uganda is another rich chuckle-word in *Private Eye* (or used to be), but to Neasden's Gujaratis it became, under Idi Amin, a place of terror and torment, of lost hopes and businesses, of an ethnic cleansing which happened before the phrase itself was minted. Kampala was the Krajina of the Gujarati man in the English corner shop.

Evicted, the Gujaratis came to this country in their thousands, to Leicester, Tooting, Wembley. To Neasden. Twenty-three years

later, they have built their own temple there. I was born in an urban Hindu home, awkwardly assembled in its attitude to faith, my father religious, my mother less so. A small shrine in the house (called the "puja room") was where my father, small brother and I recited Sanskrit scriptures every evening, cross-legged on the floor, our foreheads touched with sacred ash. This was part of our natural routine: cricket, spinning tops, kites, sneaked cigarettes in the back garden, the stamp album, marble-playing and other sorts of contests all had to stop at prayer time. We did not always come willingly, my brother and I, and our father often had to warn us to be good.

The *Vishnu Sahasranamam* — the thousand names of Vishnu — I learnt by heart, as

well as prayers to Shiva, Ganesh, Lakshmi, Hanuman, Murugan and others. Their images at home seemed always benign: small, usually reproduced in brass, swathed in strips of silk, the more precious kept under lock and key. How unlike their counterparts in Indian temples they were.

My relationship with temples, with their bolder idols and the press of mass devotion, started badly. It took me many years to overcome my fear of those temples. My first real introduction to them came in 1968. After five years as a diplomat in New York, my father was posted back to India. My parents, sensing that it was their last chance to enjoy a holiday together — unburdened by

Continued on page 3, col 1

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# INSIDE STORY

3

## 'There's a lesson for India in Neasden'

Continued on page 3, col 1  
their growing, inquisitive sons decided to dispatch their children ahead to the care of grandparents in Bombay. This was how my brother, four years old, and I, six, stepped, bewildered and alone, off a plane from New York — and into my grandfather's pistachio-green Fiat. We were then driven from Bombay, on the western coast of India, to the Venkateshwara Temple in Tirupati, 850km to the southeast.

My grandfather (a heavy Indian Army man, with whom I was to drink much rum and gin in later years) and my grandmother (not quite heavy but very indulgent) had decided that their granddaughters needed to be ritually sheared. The temple at Tirupati, India's richest and most crowded (it receives more visitors each day than Mecca or the Vatican), is where Hindu devotees have always gone to shave their heads and to make an offering of their shorn hair to the local deity, Venkateshwara.

This is thought to be "cleansing", but for a little boy it is frightening. I will not forget the man at the temple advancing on me with a razor, or the helpless terror in my small brother's brown eyes, but we somehow jostled into a large hall with all our hair and jostled out again with none. Thousands of others did this, too; our boyish locks were swept away to join some vast mound of offerings made by newly tonsured Hindus.

The temples of the Hindu religion — unlike mosques and Christian churches — are bustling places, often squelchy underfoot, and sometimes manned by paunchy priests who pay devotees little regard. For someone whose prayer at home was pacific and introspective, visits to these sites of gaudy worship soon took on the nature of nightmare.

At the temple in Vishwanath, goli (lane) in Banaras, I was elbowed by old women desperate for a splash on their palms of holy water from the river Ganges, dispensed by a priest who had his mind on other things. ("Not Ganges water on my tongue, but drops of wine shall bring relief," wrote the poet Hariharan Rai Bachchan, in his iconic *Madhusala*).

At the Tulsi Manas temple, in the same city, a monkey snatched a banana from my hand; when I moved to fling a pebble at it, I was cursed at by a man in saffron for whom the monkey was related to the god Hanuman. (Monier Williams, Boden Professor of Sanskrit at



Hindus tear down the 16th-century Babri mosque, birthplace of the Hindu god Ram. Below, the temples at Madurai



Oxford in the 19th century, said of Indian monkeys in his *Religious Thought and Life in India*: "... they are quite as godlike in their habits in the regions where they are worshipped as the most mischievous monkeys in any other part of the world.")

There was worse. At the beehive-shaped Kamakhya temple in Assam, in eastern India, I stepped with bare feet into the fresh blood of pigeons, sacrificed in their scores to the goddess Kali by the priests. And in villages throughout Rajasthan — a province as parched as it is feudal — I came across temple after temple where a lowness of caste or

birth barred villagers from entering the inner sanctum. As I grew older, and better able to absorb the complexity of Hindu temples, those elemental fears and revulsions gradually receded. They were replaced by other fears, to which I will return. But I began to see beyond the mill of people, and the pungent smells of prayer, beyond the coarse crush of devotees and the apparent waste — in offerings to the deity — of milk and food and ghee.

I did not find devotion, but I learned to live with the force of spirit which other Hindus carried within them. That spirit is present most clearly in

the architecture of every temple, in the sculptured form of the ritual flame, in stone idols grave and gorgeous, women and men at prayer, and the Vedic chant of brachycephalic Brahmins.

And I discerned that in the apparent anarchy of the religion into which I was born, there is also tolerance and an even temper. I found that spirit, most of all, in the Dravidian temples of my ancestral Tamil land — in Madurai, in Tanjore (where my father was born), and in the temple at Mahabalipuram by the sea.

I found that spirit in Neasden, too.

The new Swaminarayan Temple, already a landmark in London, is the product of a "mighty creative process". I place those words in quotes because they belong to Sir Vidia Naipaul, that most brahminical of observers. He did not intend the observation for Neasden, but for events in Ayodhya, a small town about 150km east of Lucknow, on the Indo-Gangetic plain.

You may recall that episode in December 1993, for it had a searing, millenarian quality. An uncontrollable horde of Hindus — swarming over, around and below the 16th-century Babri mosque — tore down the structure with their bare hands. The mosque is

believed by many to stand on the birthplace of the Hindu god Ram, so it was gouged out to make way for a new temple to him. Yet in that rubble of dust, gleam and demolition, some of my lost fear of temples returned.

Sir Vidia called it a "mighty creative process," as if echoing these lines by Octavio Paz from his poem *Vrindaban* (which, curiously, is the birthplace of Krishna, another god of the Hindu pantheon):

*I know what I know and I write it / The embodiment of time / The act / The movement in which the whole being is sculptured and destroyed / Consciousness and hands to*



Shaved heads in India: Tunku Varadarajan (right) in 1968, with his younger brother

## Medieval temple for a modern age

THE Swaminarayan temple in Neasden, northwest London, shares none of the characteristics of the buildings which encircle it. It is, instead, faithful to the tenets of medieval Hindu temple architecture. This style, initiated during Indian history's Gupta period (between the fourth and sixth centuries AD), achieved its finest expression in the north of the country from the ninth to the 11th centuries.

Diverging from the southern Dravidian idiom of temple architecture, the north Indian style was distinguished by its use of the *shikhar*, or pinnacle. This can be curvilinear or rectangular in shape. The



The Neasden temple: no steel or iron was used

Neasden temple has the latter variety, its central pinnacle (surrounded by a row of smaller spires) topped with the *kalash*, a pot-shaped finial. Beneath the finial is a cap stone in the shape of a grooved disc, the *amalasaraka*.

NEASDEN'S temple took 27 months to build, and used 2,828 tonnes of Bulgarian limestone, 2,000 tonnes of Indian and Italian marble, and 127 tonnes of granite. No steel or iron was used: the slabs and pieces of stone were slotted together in the manner of a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle.

T.V.

with labour volunteered, and money too, by men and women who clasp their faith as tenaciously as they do their secular professions.

Accountants, shopkeepers, lawyers, actuaries, bank clerks, traders, mechanics, schoolteachers, brokers, newsagents, restaurateurs, train drivers, dentists, pharmacists, doctors, schoolboys and schoolgirls took no wages to work on the site, and did so in their spare time — before work, after school, at weekends, on Bank Holidays, on holiday from work and study. A community came together to build, renewing its own values.

This Hindu throng swarmed not on the edifice of another faith but over land lawfully

acquired. And gradually they created — slab by marble slab and timber by carved timber — a temple to tolerance in London, a city of no mean tolerance itself.

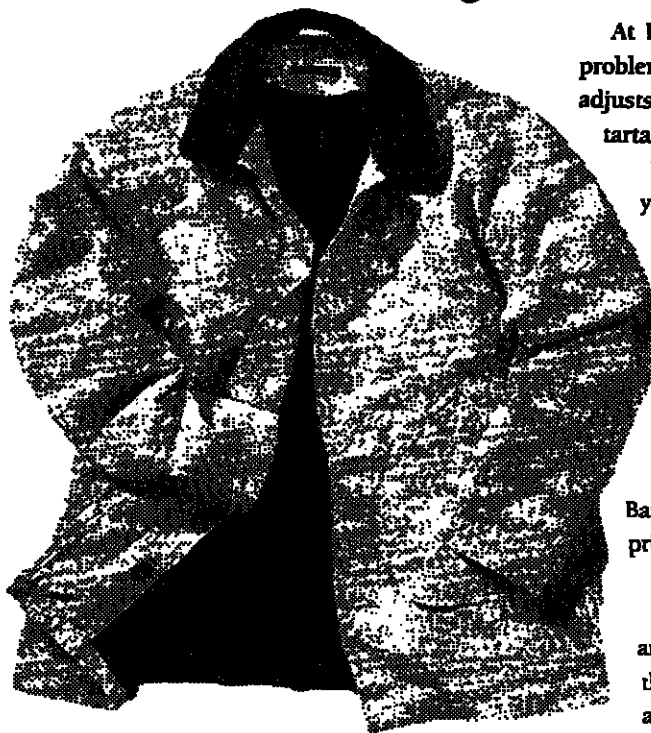
"Somewhere in Neasden there is a lesson for India," wrote Swapna Dasgupta of *The Indian Express* in the story he sent home when the temple was first opened.

Somewhere in Neasden there is a lesson for India. A simple, gentle thought with which to close a troubled question.

● The author is a Times leader writer.

Cover picture, and the above picture, of the Neasden temple by RAY MAIN

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## Ruth Gledhill attends the final of *The Times* Preacher of the Year award

### Purity from the pulpit



IF RECEIVED, secular wisdom was any guide, the offer of six sermons in a row should by rights have ensured an empty church for the final of *The Times* College of Preachers Preacher of the Year award. But even though it was partly obscured by scaffolding, this spacious, revivalist St Pancras Church was packed full for the two-hour service to choose the best of six.

More than 500 preachers, both ordained and lay, and from all the leading denominations, entered the competition. A shortlist was drawn up after a carefully scrutinised judging process and all 30 were visited in their churches before the final six were chosen.

Judges included John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, and Sir Ludovic Kennedy, the broadcaster and well-known atheist, who was chosen because organisers believed preachers should be able to preach to the unconverted as well as the converted. The preachers had each been given a beatitude from the Sermon on the Mount, that day's gospel text, to talk on.

After a welcome by the parish priest, the Rev Brendan Clover, an introduction by Canon Roger Royle, of Southwark Cathedral, and a hymn, we were off. The first preacher, Gill Dascombe, a lay preacher and pharmacist from Macclesfield, ascended the exceptionally high pulpit with remarkable calm.

"How blest are those who know their need of God: the kingdom of heaven is theirs," was her text. She described her devastation on learning she had skin cancer. "The most destructive entity we can face is not death, it is fear," she said.

Canon Jeremy Davies, precentor of Salisbury Cathedral, was next: "How blest are the sorrowful; they shall find consolation." He told a story of Vera,

whose husband was dying of cancer. "Where there's life, there's hope," the vicar had told her, but she thought it would be truer to say, for a Christian, "Where there's death, there's hope."

It was already clear how difficult this contest would be to judge, and it became more difficult after the sermon by our next preacher, Dr Alison Fry, a former scientist who is in her third year of ministerial training at St John's College, Durham. She spoke on "How blest are those of a gentle spirit: they shall have the earth for their possession." Read literally, these words are not true, she said. "They get walked over. They go to the wall." But read another way, the picture is of heaven and earth mingling together, "of extraordinary made ordinary, of ordinary made saints".

**FOUR SERVICE**

**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE:** The Rev Brendan Clover.

**ARCHITECTURE:** A Grade I listed building in Greek revival style, the second most expensive church in London after St Paul's when it was built as a preaching church in 1822. In need of repair. ★★

**SERMONS:** Almost impossible to choose which was the best of six. ★★

**MUSIC:** Anthems such as Howells's *Like as the Harp* sung from the organ loft by the church choir. ★★

**LITURGY:** Sermons, with texts taken from the New English Bible, interspersed with prayers and hymns. ★★

**AFTER-SERVICE CARE:** Tea, biscuits and cakes for 200 served in church hall by volunteers. ★★

**SPIRITUAL HIGH:** The Word made clear. ★★

The Rev Dr Richard Major, curate at Truro Cathedral, followed Dr Fry into the pulpit. He preached on the blessedness of those who hunger and thirst to see right prevail. Next came Dr Edmund Marshall, a lecturer in management science and both an Anglican lay reader and a Methodist local preacher, preaching on how blessed are the merciful.

At this point, the service had long overrun and the organisers cancelled the last hymn. As the last preacher, the Rev Barry Overend, vicar of St Chad's Headingley, Leeds, climbed the well-worn pulpit steps, I did not think he had a chance. Speaking fast, he surprised us all with a stunning sermon that proved to be the winner and sent the congregation out laughing. His beatitude, "How blest are those whose hearts are pure; they shall see God," demanded a "Mr Spock approach," he said. He could imagine the *Star Trek* hero pondering the text and concluding: "It's purify Jim, but not as we know it."

He described a certain "Mrs Wentworth" — unselfish, not hypocritical, thinking good thoughts and possessing that "almost indefinable something extra." He said: "Purity of heart is like humility — thinking that you've got it is a sure sign that you haven't." The pure in heart don't shine, they reflect the glory of that God whom one day they shall see. The ultimate irony, though, was that his Mrs Wentworth, the epitome of purity, does not believe in God. Asked why, her response was simple: "Because I've never seen him."

Any fears on my part that the day had been too long or too dull were dispelled by the shining faces and smiles of the congregation as they left the chilly church for the chillier November air.

The final of the Preacher of the Year Award was held at St Pancras Church, Euston Road, London N1A 2BA (0171-837 2146).



## Old MacDonald's showbiz farm

Somewhere along the line I have missed a trick, and it may have cost me a fortune. It is only now that I realise that I have had within my grasp all the ingredients needed to create a number-one tourist attraction; and I have blown it.

I never quite saw what crowd-pulling power farming has. I don't mean modern farming; that is unspeakably dreary. But the sort of farming that I have been doing, with a jolly mixture of pigs, sheep, cows and carthorses. I thought I was doing it for my personal satisfaction and in the cause of agricultural research; but it has, apparently, got what it takes to have Joe Public queuing down the lane with his liver.

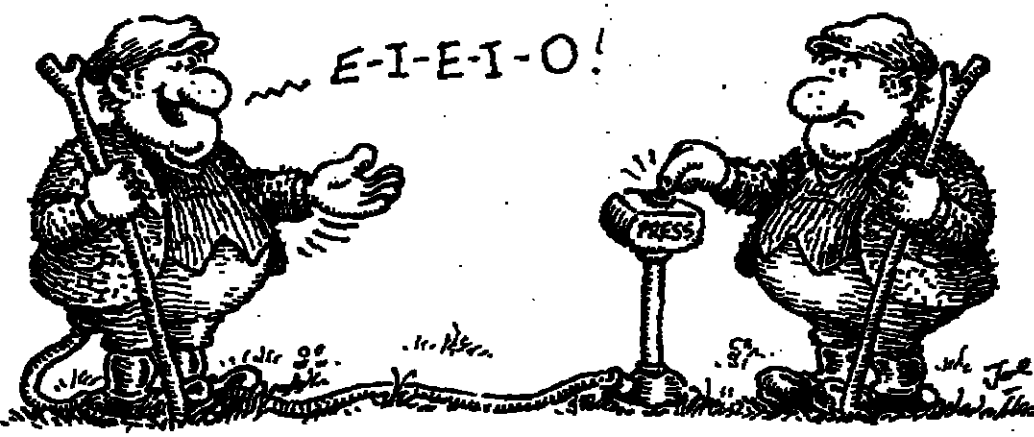
What brought this home to me was when family duties demanded a visit to Alton Towers. It is, according to recent figures, Britain's biggest tourist attraction. The Tower of London and Buckingham Palace would kill for the numbers who flock through the turnstiles. Even before the gates are open, they are gathering round the ticket booths looking at the map of attractions, trembling in anticipation of the rides. This is

what Alton Towers is all about. It has roller-coasters that eclipse all others, wicked machines into which you are strapped and hurled through the air. They want you to scream, and they are not going to let you go until they have made you.

The most famous ride is called Nemesis. It looks like hell. Children emerge from a stomach-churning, body-inverting ride, gasping: "Wow! We were weightless for four whole seconds!" Some of them are very green.

You might have guessed that it was not for me. If I want to be thrown around this way and that, spun in the air and then dropped to earth, I can get the thrill for free by trying to train our young heifer to the halter. So, instead of Nemesis, I followed my instincts and found a jolly rustic sign directing me to Old MacDonald's Farm.

I walked through the gate, and looked around. Blinkered and looked again. Was I back home?



Sure enough, there was the rusty chaff-cutter —

Albion brand — just like ours. There was an equally rusty oilcake-breaker too; a relic from the days when linseed could be bought in stabs like trays of toffee and had to be broken into bite-size chunks.

Then came the real shock. I had to pinch myself to make sure that I

### FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HENNEY

had not died on the Nemesis machine and entered the afterlife. There, lying in a pool of golden straw, was a Large Black pig. Being unable to control the reflex after several years of pig-owning, I could not prevent myself from shouting: "Pig ... pig ... pig ..."

"Pig ... pig ... pig ... pig ...". She lifted her head as if she were real. I thought that whichever model-making genius had built this must have had access to the Creator's original plans. She was perfect in every detail. "Pig ... pig ... pig ... pig ... pig ...". The model gave the precise response to the audio signal that some internal microphone somewhere must be

detecting, and pricked up her ears. This must be computer software of the highest order. Then, bringing me to my senses, the sow stood four square on her legs, as they do when they are about to have a piddle, and let forth a stream which no computer could have simulated.

It was a real pig. Here, amid this land of make-believe, which offers you a rush of Staffordshire water and tells you it is a part of the Congo River, they had dared to confuse me by introducing a live farm animal.

I told her that my sow, Alice, sent her love to her distant relative in showbiz, and went to look at the rest of the animals gathered in individual pens in the next-door barn. They were even more fantastic. Do you know they have got a pair of geese that can sing? True. They were the first thing I saw; opening their yellow beaks as wide as they could and giving a spirited rendering of "E-I-E-I-O".

Next door to them was a black

and white cow. It was not restricted to the usual mooing; they had taught her not only to sing the verses, but to join in the choruses too. Suspicious by now, I turned to see a huge pink pig with a broad grin get as far as "..." and on that farm he had some ... when the little girl in front let go of the button and the pig stopped.

She then gave the button in front of the hens a jab, and they burst into life. Soon the singing of the automata was loud enough to lift the barn roof. Most disturbing was an isolated pair of legs in wellies standing on wooden steps which went up into a loft, just like ours. There was no body, just legs, tapping to the rhythm. Those legs were wearing the same boots as I do! I pinched myself again.

It was all too disturbing. I emerged from Old MacDonald's Farm more shook up than if I had been on the most violent of Alton Towers' rides. Crestfallen too: for six years I have sat unknowingly on an oil well. Still, perhaps it is not too late to start. Alice has learnt as far as the second verse, and as soon as I can train her to stop singing when I let go of the button, we shall be open for business.

For polite, liberal-minded Lewes, Bonfire Night means a riotous celebration of political incorrectness

## Where popes and martyrs go for the burn

They are burning the Pope in our town tonight. There will be flaming torches and tar barrels, heads on poles and "No Popery" banners. This is Lewes, East Sussex, where 17 protestants were martyred and today Guy Fawkes plays second fiddle while His Holiness burns.

There is no other bonfire night like it. Every bedroom in the town is booked months ahead. And they don't come just for the spectacle. They come for the sort of thrill we have almost ruled out of our lives. "I can't believe they're doing this," someone says every year, as we watch a night of misrule from our house on the high street. The bow windows jut out into the crowds, and through the glass you can feel the heat of the torches.

On this night every year, the population of Lewes swells from 15,000 to 60,000. The doorbells ring so many times on our first November 5 here that we turned the evening into an annual party, with scores of sausages and pints of mulled wine.

We watch about 2,500 marchers dressed as Zulus, Vikings and Red Indians — definitely not Native Americans — and listen to military and jazz bands. Then we pile out into the smoky night to see burning effigies and exploding tableaux of the year's famous people at the five bonfires around town. They have been practising for weeks. We have had sporadic explosions most nights. The striped guernseys of the Bonfire Boys — worn since 1847 when a Boy in a guernsey was arrested — have been seen about the town. And behind the Elephant and Castle pub there has been much hammering and whistling at the weekends.

At dusk tonight there will be an eerie start to proceedings with the illumination of the Martyrs Memorial on the hill at the far end of the town. The martyrs were burnt at the stake outside the Star Inn between 1555 and 1557 during Mary's reign.

"And Lewes Bonfire has been going ever since Bloody Mary?" Someone says that every year, too. The answer is no. Other towns have martyrs. The memorial wasn't put up until 1901. Like so

many "centuries-old English traditions", Lewes Bonfire really got going in Victorian times.

There was the odd year notable for a rowdy November 5 in Lewes in the 18th century. Bonfire came and went. Then, in 1850, the Pope re-opened for business in England, setting up a Roman Catholic hierarchy and creating an Archbishop of Westminster. Then the Bonfire Boys really got going.

The infamous and dangerous Lewes rouser (a huge homemade squib) has been banned, and it's "No offence meant, Father." After all, only one of the five societies which run Bonfire actually burns

residue of it in Bonfire but I think it's overwhelmingly just a tradition.

In Lewes the gunpowder plots start on November 6 — for the following year. The secret societies are Commercial Square, Cliffe, South Street Juvenile, Waterloo — all named after parts of the town — and Borough, originally called Lewes Town. They'll have my head on a pole for that, but membership tends to run in families and an outsider has as much chance of finding out what the tableau is in advance as lighting a wet Roman candle.

The Pope-burners are Cliffe. A few years back, they burnt Robert Runcie as well because he showed signs of ecumenism. The effigy of the Archbishop of Canterbury carried a book called *The Road to Rome*.

Favourites for the tableaux this year include John Redwood, with rockets zooming out of his Vulcan ears. The Bonfire Boys must surely have been tempted by Hugh Grant in *Sunset Boulevard*. Sadly, Liz Hurley's will-she-won't-she flirtation with Rome came too late.

"How do they get permission for all this?" The thoughtful sausage-chewer, watching babies being pushed by marching mothers and youngsters carrying torches, always expects a vexed man from the council to come along any minute and send 60,000 people home. Imagine proposing it today. "We'd like to drop flaming tar barrels in the River Ouse ... march about a bit with torches ... incite a bit of anti-Catholic feeling ... blow up a replica of somebody famous ... We'll prepare for the whole thing by tinkering with explosives in our cellars and sheds. All right with the committee?"

"Heavens." A pause mid-savage. "Are they carrying severed heads on poles?" With blood running out of mouth and neck, yes. Council and police officers find themselves pilloried, or rather beheaded, on the night. The slogan "Enemies of Bonfire" is fixed to the pole.

Every society has its archbishop, who gives a speech — which is more of a rant — condemning Guy



The Cliffe society, known as pope-burners

the Pope. And, after all, it's not this Pope. It's Pope Paul V, who was at the Vatican at the time of the Gunpowder Plot.

A flaming "No Popery" goes past our dining-room window followed by "Our Cause is Good and Must Prevail". The other 364 days of the year, the middle-class liberals of Lewes would shudder at such intolerance. But tonight they'll be on the streets and behind the bow windows of the high street.

The local Roman Catholic priest, Father Andrew Beer of St Pancras, will not be out on the street cheering tonight. He takes a philosophical view of the immolation of his spiritual leader. "I'd rather they didn't burn the Pope and say blood-curdling prayers, but Lewes is a friendly town with no feeling of anti-Catholicism. There may be a



The Lewes "Bonfire Boys and Girls" in their striped guernseys push Guy Fawkes to the stake

Fawkes and anyone else who takes his fancy, on a platform in front of the bonfire.

One veteran archbishop of Commercial Square claims always to have been drunk, and worried only if fireworks landed in his mire. Now he is retired he still starts drinking every year in September, the beginning, as he explains, of the bonfire season.

Unbelievably, the safety record is good. They wouldn't get away with

a night like this if it weren't. Some precautions are taken. The pubs are closed, the shops windows boarded up — not for fear of vandalism, but the pressure of the crowds — and there are safety barriers around the war memorial.

It is the risk — the mad and bad part — which attracts the 60,000. You can feel the tension in the town all day. The undertow is there all year with the meetings, the annual dinners and the tableaux plots.

And tonight it will crash through the surface current of the bland, safety-first, politically correct late-20th century.

Tomorrow morning, there'll be nothing left but the smell of the flames.

JILL PARKIN

● Lewes town centre will be closed to all cars from late in the afternoon. Ring British Rail for details of extra trains.

## Sitting pretty on a raft

Feather Report

THE FIRST thing I saw when I got to the lake was a female reed-bunting feeding vigorously on the purple seed-heads of the phragmites reeds. She was swaying with the tops of the reeds, and was so absorbed that she let me have a good view of the beautiful, finely inked striations on her back, and of her rather unfeminine moustache.

Out beyond the reeds, coots were making pinging cries, and tufted ducks were diving, while a pair of mute swans were quietly preening. When they had finished, each gave a brisk, self-satisfied wag of its pointed white tail.

But the most dramatic birds on the lake were a party of eight cormorants. Seven of them were sitting on a raft, their beaks pointing up in that suspicious way they have, and two of them had spread their wings out to dry.

One had its wings in a W-shape, and was gently flapping the tips of them. The other had them stretched out straight, like the hem of a large black curtain. The eighth bird was swimming very low in the water, and suddenly dived. They chase eels underwater, using their feet as propellers — but this one came up with nothing.

Anglers and fish farmers hate cormorants as much as many countryfolk hate magpies. They can get a licence to shoot them if serious damage to fish stocks is proved. But the RSPB points out that there are only about 7,500 pairs of them in Britain — so I am glad to learn that licences are quite hard to get.

### DERWENT MAY

● What's about Birders — Watch out for goldeneyes on lakes, reservoirs and inland waterways. Twitchees — Arctic redpoll at Dorman's Pool, Cleveland; juvenile purple heron near Preece, Shropshire; dusky warbler at Sandwick Bay, Kent. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

MARY EVANS



Fish farmers hate cormorants for damaging their fish stocks



Hedgehogs like untidy gardens, with leaves to shelter in

It has not been a happy year for hedgehogs. Last winter the mild weather kept rousing them from hibernation and depleting their energy reserves. This summer the hot drought drove earthworms, their main fodder, inaccessibly underground, forcing hedgehogs into unnatural acts, such as raiding hen-houses and giving birth to blood babies, or hoglets, as they are known.

Now, to cap it all, these creatures, vulnerable despite their spines, are up against Guy Fawkes Night. Unknown numbers of hedgehogs die each year after choosing unlit bonfires as winter homes. The solution, however, is not to poke them out with a stick, but to start a fire next to the pile and gradually move it over.

What do you do if you find a hibernating hedgehog, furze-pig, or urchin, to use its country names?

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS), founded in 1982, recommends preparing another hibernation site just in case, positioning the leaves and

## How to save a hedgehog on Guy Fawkes Night

Hedgehogs are known to choose unlit bonfires as their winter homes

twigs under a bush or shed, or putting them in a purpose-built box. Pick up the hog with some of its nesting materials around it and move it to the second site. For this reason, hedgehogs prefer slightly untidy gardens, with piles of leaves and compost to shelter in.

The society, which has over 10,000 members and a nationwide network of carers prepared to take on sick or injured hogs, issues free leaflets on request and has recently sent out more than 2,000 to vets, who, says the society, often have little or no experience of dealing with these wild animals.

The leaflets available to the public include advice on diet — hogs prefer cat food and grated cheese to bread and milk — and

building a hibernation box (also available ready-made for between £8.99 and £26.95 from their mail-order "hogalogue"). A cheap alternative is a sheet of hardboard propped up against a wall. Newspaper forms a good bedding substitute for leaves.

The BHPS also points out that,

since hedgehogs eat slugs, they are much more eco-friendly in the garden than pesticides. If you have a pond, lean a ramp into it, so that hedgehogs can climb out if they fall in after drinking. It was the BHPS that persuaded county councils to include escape ramps in their cattle grids. It also lobbied to have the hedgehog protected by law when the RSPCA — which brings the majority of cruelty cases to court — found its prosecutions were hampered by a wildlife protection law. The RSPCA claims it is ambiguous and not comprehensive enough to include hedgehogs.

Dr Pat Morris of London University's zoology department is acknowledged as the country's leading hog expert. He is the

author of the definitive layman's manual, *Hedgehogs* (Whitell Books, £7.99), and is researching their ethology. One of the seasonal problems outlined in his book is that of autumn orphans. Late litters can be born right into October, which means that if you find a hog family in your woodpile it may contain hungry hoglets left to forage while their parents go into hibernation.

The Greek writer, Archilochus, said: "The fox knows many things — the hedgehog one big one." Perhaps it is the number of the BHPS Hedgehog Helpline 01584 890287.

### JENNY MCCLEAN

● The British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Knowbury House, Knowbury, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 3LQ (01584 890801). Oak hedgehog houses are available from Banana Barn, Street Farm, Stinchcombe, Dursley, Gloucestershire GL11 6AW (call 0453 544276 for catalogue). St Tiggywinkle's, The Wildlife Hospital Trust, Aston Road, Haddenham, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP17 9AF (01844 202202).



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60ft Dolls look cloned; Harlem's  
golden age; Schumann blazes;  
*Rigoletto* from La Scala

## POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

## QUEEN

Made In Heaven

Parlophone 8 36088\*\*\*

FRANKLY, the impending battle of the bands with dead singers is not an alluring prospect. But while the re-grouped Beatles have, by all accounts, been forced to work with some pretty scant contributions from the late John Lennon, the remaining members of Queen were bequeathed a generous album's worth of surprisingly full-blooded performances by Freddie Mercury.

Mercury wrote and recorded his parts in the 16 months between the end of the *Innuendo* sessions in the summer of 1990 and his death in October 1991. Although cruelly aware of the limited time left, he threw himself into these performances with typical zest.

Certainly, there is no dis-

Made In Heaven stands up remarkably well as the closing chapter in a spectacular pop odyssey.

## POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

## 60FT DOLLS

Pig Valentine

Indolent DOLLS001\*\*\*

A GUITAR-SLINGING trio convened two years ago in Newport, Gwent, 60ft Dolls take the sound of the early Jam and Clash as their template for Pig Valentine. Tom-toms are whipped, riffs are clipped and singer Richard Parfitt affects a desperado air: "The devil on my shoulder buys me drinks, so I don't care/The angel slipped, he lost his grip, I am headed straight for you-know-where."

It's a sound and mood which fits in alongside this year's rash of exciting new bands. But like so many of their peers (Marion, Lick, Menswear, the Bluetones, Ash), 60ft Dolls have still to prove themselves much more than the sum of some fairly obvious influences.

## JAZZ

Clive Davis

## VARIOUS ARTISTS

A Great Day in Harlem

Columbia 481399-2\*\*\*

IF JEAN BACH'S affectionate Oscar-nominated jazz documentary, *A Great Day in Harlem*, had one drawback it was that its slender running time reduced most of the music to little more than soundbites. That deficiency is amply rectified in this no less genial exercise in time-travel.

The day in question, for those who have not yet seen the film, was the morning in 1958 when a young *Esquire* photographer, Art Kane, corralled nearly 60 leading musicians of the era for a group portrait on the steps of a Harlem brownstone.

The wide-angle shot that resulted, after some jockeying for position, stands as an evocative document of an occasion when swing masters from Buck Clayton to Lester Young rubbed shoulders with the new generation represented by Horace Silver, Gerry Mulligan and Charles Mingus.

Musically, the compilation proves much more than an excuse to round up the usual suspects. Mingus's elegiac *Goodbye Pork Pie Hat* may be familiar enough, but the remainder throw up unexpected treasures — Rex Stewart and other Ellingtonians performing *Back Room Romp*, Horace Silver creating a leisurely,



Mercury: zest and power

cernible loss of range or power in his voice on the exuberant *I Was Born To Love You* or the soaring, pseudo-gospel chant of *Let Me Live*.

Nor are there any obviously half-baked, or patched-up numbers. Two of the songs have been recorded before, including *Heaven For Everyone*, which cropped up on an album by drummer Roger Taylor's band, The Cross, and the ghastly *Too Much Love Will Kill You*, a solo hit for guitarist Brian May in 1992.

Most, however, are as good as anything that Queen came up with in their later years. How good that is, as always with Queen, is largely a matter of taste.

*Mother Love*, the last recording that Mercury made, is a song of truly heartfelt pathos: "I can't take it if you see me cry/I long for peace before I die."

Despite its overdue delivery,

NEW ON VIDEO: Nymphomaniac nuns, animal magic, gleaming uniforms ... and, of course, Julie Andrews

## Like father, like daughter



Sophie Marceau plays D'Artagnan's daughter in Bertrand Tavernier's high-spirited costume romp, crammed with implausible plot turns and vigorous swordplay

## D'ARTAGNAN'S DAUGHTER

Artificial Eye, PG, 1994

BERTRAND TAVERNIER tries his hand at a costume romp crammed with implausible plot turns, vigorous swordplay and a heroine in trousers. Sophie Marceau portrays the musketeer's daughter with charm and spunk, though her spotlight dims once Philippe Noiret appears as the ageing dad who rounds up Dumas's old team to rout a conspiracy threatening the throne. Like the musketeers, the film sags in the middle, but its pleasant high spirits carry the day.

Artificial Eye, PG, 1994

HAL HARTLEY'S uniquely cock-eyed romantic thriller about a

nymphomaniac nun (Isabelle Huppert), an amnesiac pornographer (Martin Donovan), and some incriminating floppy disks. The cult writer-director persists with his cryptic visual style and circular dialogue, but the plot gives the film more momentum than usual and by the end you even care for the fate of the main characters: two lost souls, amateurs at living, trapped in a muddle of desires, ambition and self-doubt.

Artificial Eye, PG, 1995

MORE a feature-length advert for Power Rangers toys than a movie proper. Time and again the camera fetishises the gleaming uniforms worn by the six teenage stars whenever they "morph" into superheroes and zoom between planets. The evil they battle is spread by Ivan Ooze, a shape-

changing ogre who spouts sarcastic one-liners, the probable result of spending the past 600 years inside a purple egg. A popcorn feast for the younger crowd.

Artificial Eye, PG, 1995

THE MOVIE

Artificial Eye, PG, 1995

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Artificial Eye, PG, 1995

lude To A Kiss, which contains one of Hal Ashby's velvet homages to Ben Webster.

## VARIOUS ARTISTS

(I Got No Kick Against)

Modern Jazz

GRP 98322\*\*

THE idea looks promising: gather a roster of contemporary musicians and set them loose on The Beatles. The execution, at times, falls into that no man's land where mellow jazz shades into Muzak. Tom Scott enters the scene with *The Fool On The Hill*, while Lee Ritenour delivers the most anti-climactic *A Day In The Life* known to man. All is forgiven when singer-pianist Diana Krall — certain to become a star of the Nineties — gives *And I Love Her* the slow-motion treatment associated with Shirley Horn.

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*Life* known to man. All is forgiven

when singer-pianist Diana Krall —







A second home near a Swiss or French alpine resort can help to pay for itself through winter lettings

# Ski from your own doorstep

I am sitting at the desk in my study in the Chalet," wrote Alan Clark in his *Diaries*, "and the French windows are open on to the balcony. Fifty feet away the Westli foams and tumbles past, swollen by the melting glaciers. The Matterhorn is in full view, and the whole house carries that delicious aroma of high summer, pine needles and sweet geranium."

The former Defence Minister made many fond references to his bolthole at Zermatt, Switzerland, often when he was entrenched in Whitehall meetings.

Owning an Alpine retreat such as Clark's Chalet Caroline is an attractive prospect. The benefits are many: expensive skiing holidays need never be booked again and the chalet can be rented out to earn a yearly return of about 5 per cent of the outlay. The income from three weeks' rental at peak season, say in February, can pay for a year's running costs. Another advantage is that, since last April, the Inland Revenue has allowed taxpayers to offset interest charges to buy or improve foreign holiday homes against their rental income.

Payment of any foreign taxes on rental income is complicated and, though you should be able to pay your tax in Britain, a specialist should be consulted.

As with buying any sort of property, the main issue is location. For chalets, this boils down to France or Switzerland. Naturally, it seems best to choose a property in your favoured resort, but certain factors may prevail against this. Swiss legislation prevents foreigners from buying in German-speaking areas, such as St Moritz and Klosters. Even in French-speaking resorts, such as Zermatt, one can only buy properties with a maximum of 100 square metres of habitable space.

In France, there are fewer restrictions, but the sterling/franc exchange rate makes buying French property less attractive.

Ziggi Davenport, who runs the Hertfordshire-based Alpine Apartments Agency, which specialises in French properties, says that a chalet she sold last year for £1.3 million (£175,000) would go on sale now for around £1.7 million.

French communes are becoming much stricter in enforcing height, size and style restrictions on new chalets. Coupled with the limited amount of land available, this means that existing chalets are getting more expensive. Nevertheless, there is still a huge demand. "I know of many who are waiting to pounce when the French franc weakens," Ms Davenport says.

Chalet prices can vary enormously. In an unfashionable and poorly equipped French-speaking Swiss resort, a two to three-bedroom freehold chalet can be bought for as little as £125,000 to £150,000. But such resorts are well off the beaten piste, and if you are serious enough about skiing to buy a chalet there seems little point in committing yourself to an area where none of your friends would wish to join you. There is the added disadvantage that a chalet in such a resort is hardly going to earn a fat rental income.

The price of chalets in popular Swiss resorts, such as Villars, are typical. SwFr1.5 million (£750,000) will buy the grand, ten-year-old Chalet Barbizou, which has four bedrooms, a cellar, games room, three reception rooms and two bathrooms. The chalet is near enough to the town to be able to walk to the shops and restaurants, and is high enough to enjoy spectacular views. The five-year-old Chalet Les Papillons, which is being sold by its English owner for



The four-bedroom Chalet Barbizou, on a hillside near Villars, Switzerland, is for sale at £750,000

SwFr625,000 (£312,500) is near Villars and has three bedrooms, good views, and the facility of being able to ski from the front door to the nearest telecabine. Both chalets are being sold by Simon Malster, an independent property consultant.

Chalets in French resorts within an hour of Geneva are the most popular, Ms Davenport says, but adds: "Many people are disappointed by the lack of choice around the £250,000 mark." In Val d'Isère, there are two new, deluxe five-bedroom chalets for sale at Fr5.650.000 (£700,000) and Fr6 million (£750,000), though these are so plush that they include saunas and ski-boot warmers. A four-bedroom, four-bathroom chalet (a renovated 300-year-old farmhouse) has just been sold for Fr2.25

million (£300,000). In Méribel, a 600 square metre, 12-year-old chalet with nine bedrooms is for sale at Fr17 million (£2.1 million), but a more typical price for four bedrooms is Fr4 million (£500,000).

Those who spend a large amount of money on chalets are not those who wish to rent them out. Nevertheless, many ski companies are hungry to find decent properties, and are willing to pay good sums for a full season's rental. A £30,000 four-bedroom chalet in Val d'Isère is being rented by a tour company for £23,000 from mid-December to mid-April. This represents a return of 7.5 per cent.

If the idea of giving up your chalet for an entire season does not appeal, there is the option of renting it out to individuals for shorter periods, though management companies can charge as

much as 25 per cent of the rental income. While the owners are away, the chalets can also be maintained by management companies, who will cut the grass in summer, shovel snow from paths, mend gutters, and generally attend to the place. Some companies will deliver your car to the airport on your arrival.

"If the owners are staying only for the weekend," Mr Malster says, "they want to have as much free time as possible. They don't want to waste it by carrying out menial chores." Perhaps Alan Clark has such a splendid arrangement.

GUY WALTERS

● Ziggi Davenport, Alpine Apartments Agency, 01544 388234. Simon Malster, 0171-499 0321.

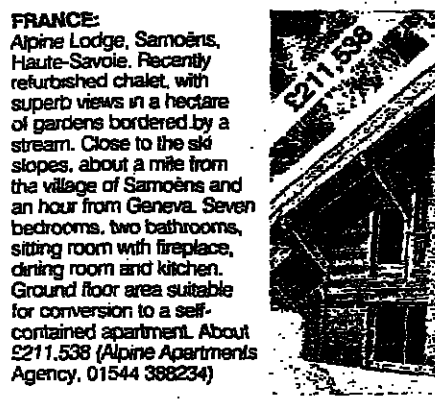
Skiing in Norway, page 21

## FOR SALE

### ALPINE CHALET



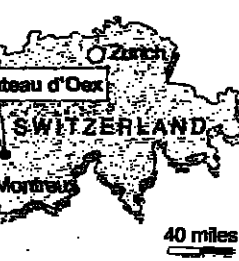
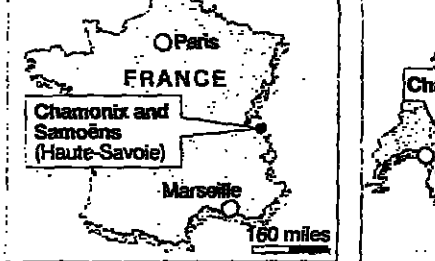
FRANCE: Chalet C, Domaine des Barthes, Chamonix, Haute-Savoie. Large, newly built, architect-designed chalet in the Chamonix Valley, near the Grands Montets ski area, about 90 minutes' drive from Geneva airport. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, sitting room with stone fireplace, fitted oak-and-cedar kitchen. Garden. About: £554,620 (Alpine Apartments Agency, 01544 388234).



FRANCE: Alpine Lodge, Samoens, Haute-Savoie. Recently refurbished chalet, with superb views in a hectare of gardens bordered by a stream. Close to the ski slopes, about a mile from the village of Samoens and an hour from Geneva. Seven bedrooms, two bathrooms, sitting room with fireplace, dining room and kitchen. Ground floor area suitable for conversion to a self-contained apartment. About: £211,538 (Alpine Apartments Agency, 01544 388234).



SWITZERLAND: Chalet Floralis, Chateau d'Oex, near Gstaad. Large, balconied first-floor apartment in a south-facing chalet, in a quiet location 20 minutes' drive from Gstaad, and 17 hours from Geneva airport. Three bedrooms (one with en suite bath), shower room, living room with open fireplace, and fully equipped kitchen. About: £295,000 (Simon Malster, 0171-499 0321).



### WESTOVER ROAD, SW18

A beautifully presented Victorian end-of-terrace house in a prestigious residential road off the west side of Wandsworth Common. 5 beds, 2 baths, 2 recep., kitchen, cellar, 24m (80ft) south east facing garden.

Freehold  
£380,000

WANDSWORTH:  
0181-871 3033



### HORBURY MEWS, W11

An unusually spacious mews house with a garage, 3 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, conservatory, kitchen, cloakroom, patio garden.

ISA: Knight Frank & Rutley 0171-938 4311

Freehold  
£545,000

KENSINGTON:  
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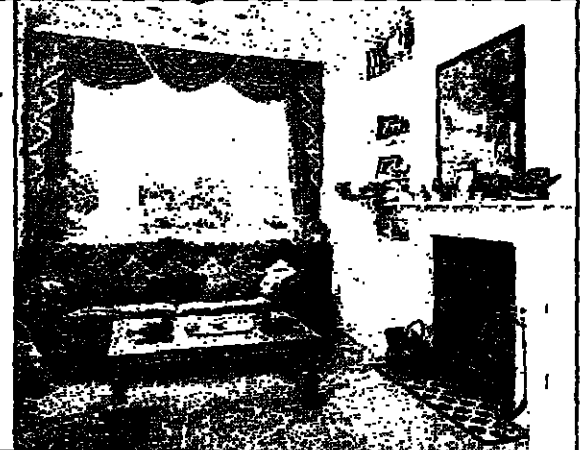


### EDDISCOMBE ROAD, SW6

Close to Parsons Green, a charming terraced house with a spacious kitchen and paved garden, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, 7.7m (25ft) reception, kitchen, cellar, cloakroom, garden.

Freehold  
£297,500

FULHAM:  
0171-731 4223



### ANHALT ROAD, SW11

In a prestigious road close to Albert Bridge and Battersea Park, a Victorian house recently renovated and enlarged to create a delightful house, 4 beds, 2 baths, shower room, 3 recep., kit, west facing 15.3m (50ft) garden.

Freehold  
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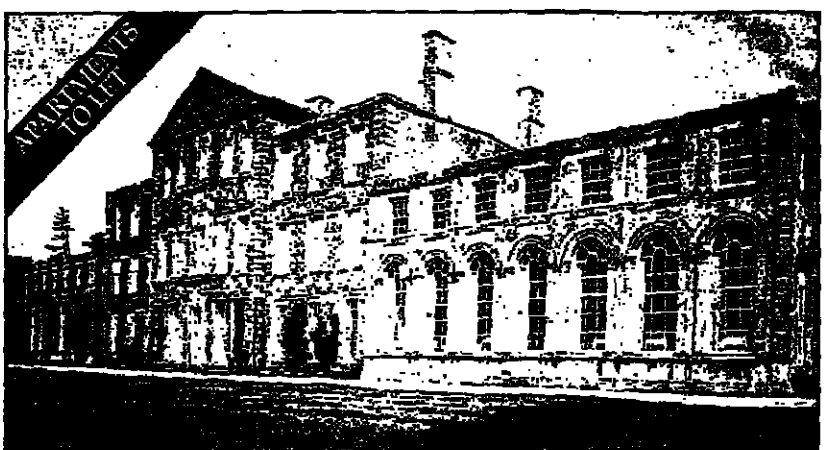


LOWNDES PLACE, BELGRAVIA, SW1 Lease to 2045 £1,850,000  
In a quiet location, an exceptional house with a spectacular drawing room opening onto a roof terrace, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, shower room, 2 dressing rooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, garage.  
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Several 1 and 2 bedroom apartments within a delightful country house, in a picturesque village with views over the Cotswold Hills and within easy reach of London by road and rail. The apartments offer gracious accommodation for retired people. To let unfurnished.  
COUNTRY LETTING DEPARTMENT: 01256 398004



### HAMPSHIRE Sway

A pretty listed 17th century farmhouse about a mile from the open forest. 3/4 beds, 2 baths, 2/3 recep., kitchen, b'fast rm. Double garage, stable block, garden & orchard. About 0.16 hectare (0.4 acre).

Price Guide: £225,000

LYMINGTON:  
01590 677233

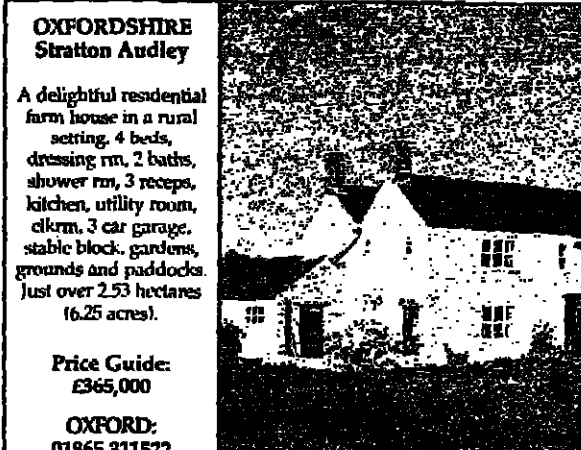


### HAMPSHIRE Curridge

Situated in a gardeners' paradise adjoining open countryside, a mellow late 1930's detached bungalow, refurbished and beautifully presented. 2 beds, bath, sitting rm, ckrm, kit/dining rm, garage, established garden of 0.26 hectare (0.65 acre).

Price Guide: £165,000

WINCHESTER:  
01962 963131



### OXFORDSHIRE Stratton Audley

A delightful residential farm house in a rural setting, 4 beds, dressing rm, 2 baths, shower rm, 3 recep., kitchen, utility room, ckrm, 3 car garage, stable block, gardens, grounds and paddocks. Just over 2.53 hectares (6.25 acres).

Price Guide: £365,000

OXFORD:  
01865 311522



## PROPERTY

11

R SALE

INE CHALET

FRANCE



Marianne Topham's watercolour of interior designer Nina Campbell's drawing room. The artist has also painted St George's Hall, Windsor

## The pictures that prove home is where the art is

The artists with brush or camera who can portray your home as the subject for a lasting memory

If, as they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, why not commission a portrait of your house? Some people who do this are discovering a bonus: when they come to sell their house the painting or photograph can be used in the estate agent's brochure, as well as being a lasting reminder of their old home.

Many artists are pleased to have such a commission, provided they are given enough freedom of interpretation.

Finding an artist who you feel would do justice to your house may be a simple matter of visiting local art galleries, then contacting the artist whose work appeals to you.

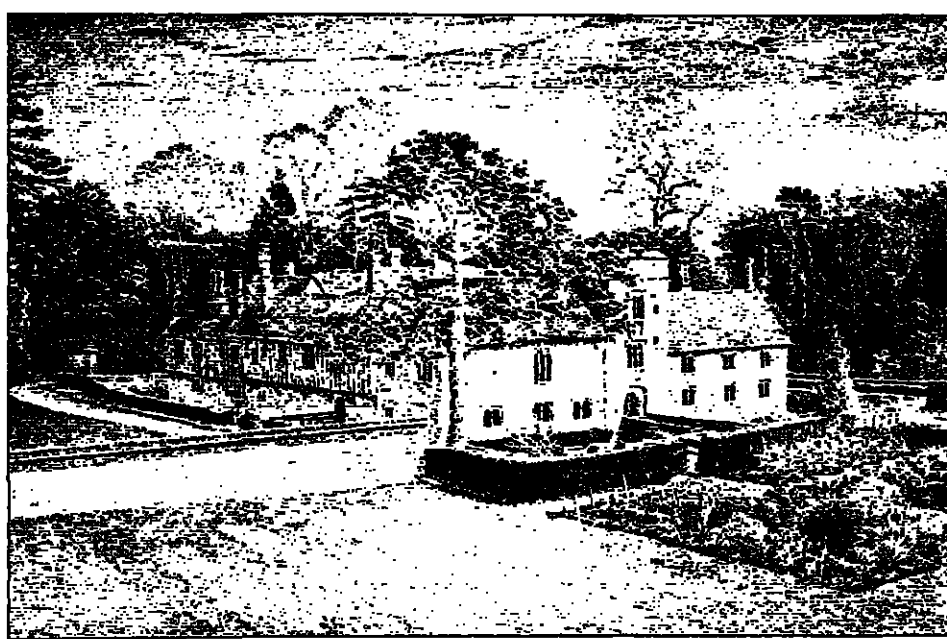
Lyn Fiddian-Green asked Robert Bates to paint a picture of the garden at her home in the Malvern Hills, Worcestershire, after buying one of his landscapes at the Lumley-Cazalet gallery in London. Mr Bates, who lives in Castle Gregory on the Dingle peninsula at Kerry, in the Irish Republic, stayed with the family, took copious photographs, made sketches and later produced three small watercolours.

"I was thrilled," Mrs Fiddian-Green says. "I wanted them for my 11-year-old daughter, Lucy, to remind her of her childhood, and Mr Bates has included her in one of the pictures. The colours are beautiful. Lots of people admire the pictures."

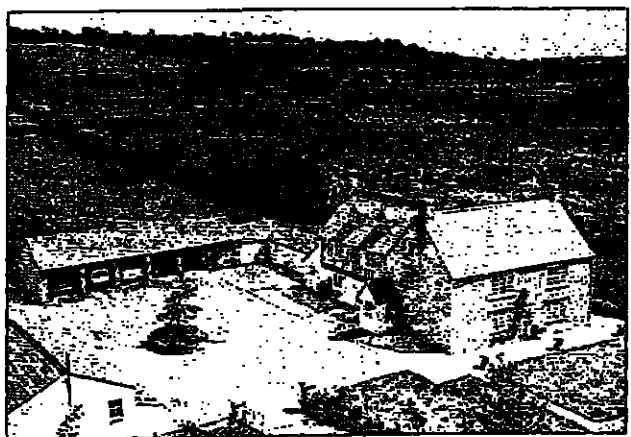
Mr Bates, 51, who trained in Birmingham and at the Royal College of Art in London, usually paints small, highly detailed watercolours of landscapes, but is happy to take on house commissions, for which he charges £1,200 to £1,500, plus expenses.

"I've done quite a few as surprises for people, including one of Glyndebourne for a director who was retiring," he says. "The houses tend to be big, an include a couple for the National Trust, such as medieval Igham Mote in Kent."

Rose Cecil, 39, has also painted some surprises, the



Medieval Igham Mote in Kent, a 4½ in by 7 in watercolour by Robert Bates



Highlight's mast-camera picture of a Wiltshire farmhouse

nicest being a present from a best man to a bride and groom — paintings secretly done of their former homes. She also did three paintings of a house in west London for a couple who moved to France and wanted a memento for each of their three children. Her dream commission came re-

cently from Claire Kirkman, who asked her to record her 18th-century house and garden in West Sussex through the four seasons, as a present for her husband, Ms Cecil, who trained at the City and Guilds of London Art College, is compiling about 15 oil and gouache paintings and photo-

graphs for this project. She enjoys variety and is just as happy painting a small town house as grander estates, interiors or exteriors, in oils (which cost about £800 a picture) or watercolours (which cost less). But she is not so keen on houses that have been over-restored, because she feels the intrinsic character of the house can often be obscured.

Marianne Topham prefers detailed watercolours of interiors, charging from £700 to £1,500, although she also does "artist's impressions" of developers' projects, such as those for the brochure for Prospect Quay at Putney, southwest London, a new riverside development.

She trained at the Byam School of Art and later in Florence. She has had coveted commissions, including a watercolour of the interior designer Nina Campbell's drawing room, and one of St George's Hall, Windsor.

Aerofilms, of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, takes aerial photographs. The company was started in 1919 and now has three pilots and three photographers working out of Luton airport, plus a picture library of 1½ million photographs spanning 75 years.

The company took the photographs that were joined together to make the title sequence for the television soap *EastEnders*.

Aerofilms charges £395, plus VAT, for four five-inch-square colour prints, and a further £28 for an A4 print selected from a contact sheet of 12, but it will negotiate special rates if clusters of householders in the same neighbourhood want pictures. There is a summer rate of £195 for taking previously ordered pictures while flying in the area on other business.

A cheaper option is offered by Highsight, of Chippenham, Wiltshire, which has developed a way of taking aerial photographs by using a camera mounted on an 80ft telescopic mast fixed to a van. A small video camera trained on the camera viewfinder is linked to a colour monitor in the van, which enables clients to choose the shots.

This method was developed by Sam Conolly, a former RAF aerial photographer, who accepts jobs throughout the country. "A large framed picture costs about £150, and clients have 12 to choose from," he says.

Highsight was commissioned by Mike Kennett to photograph his five-bedroom Grade II listed farmhouse near Chippenham. "It was very effective, and people asked if it was taken from a helicopter," he says. "In fact, it showed the house off so well that we decided to use it in the estate agent's brochure after trying to sell the house for nine months. It did the trick."

CHRISTINE WEBB

### Fact box

- The artists mentioned above all accept commissions: Robert Bates, 003 536 639367, Rose Cecil, 0171-613 4663, Marianne Topham, 0171-730 8147.
- Aerial photographs are offered by Aerofilms, 0181-207 0666. Mast-camera pictures are taken by Highsight, 01249 444794.

## FOR SALE

### MILL HOUSES



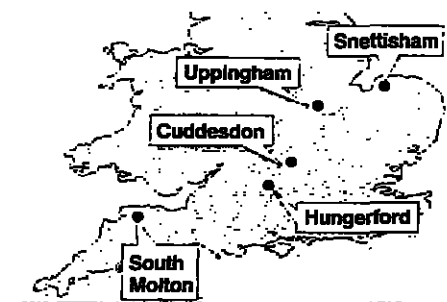
**BERKSHIRE:** Denford Mill, near Hungerford. Converted former mill house in 15 acres of riverside gardens, with lake and watermeadow, and 380 yards of double-bank fishing; also 155 yards of single-bank fishing on the River Kennet. Seven bedrooms, five bathrooms (three en suite), four reception rooms, kitchen, breakfast room, utility room and cloakroom. About £675,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01835 521707)

**DEVON:** Fitton Mill, South Molton. Grade II listed former mill house in an acre of gardens, with the millstream running through. Close to the Exmoor National Park. Four bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, kitchen and breakfast room. Garage and stables. About £185,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01392 215631)



**NORFOLK:** The Mill House, Snettisham, near King's Lynn. Mill house and listed 18th-century watermill, in 3½ acres of landscaped gardens on the River Ingol, with a mill pool and waterfall. Six bedrooms (four with en suite bathrooms), three reception rooms, study, kitchen and conservatory. About £290,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01603 517431)

**OXFORDSHIRE:** The Mill House, Cuddesdon. Grade II listed 18th-century mill house with frontage to the River Thame, and an acre of mature gardens. Seven bedrooms, two bathrooms, drawing room, sitting room, dining hall, kitchen/breakfast room, studio, cloakroom, cellar. Former stables now a garage and store. About £480,000 (John D. Wood, 01865 311522)



**RUTLAND:** Morcott Windmill, near Uppingham. Rutland. Grade II listed converted windmill in about 10½ acres, with planning permission for a stable building and tack room. Bedroom, bathroom, sitting room and kitchen/breakfast room. About £170,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01865 433 123)

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## Shop for Christmas at the Zoo

The feelgood factor will be high if you choose to do your Christmas shopping at London Zoo this year. Not only will you be able to choose gifts from 46 stalls, you will also be helping to preserve the Aquarium and the Zoo's renowned programme for saving endangered species. For £5, readers of *The Times* can buy tickets for the Zoobazaar preview which starts at 6pm on Tuesday, November 28. There will be mulled wine and mince pies plus plenty of time to browse.

Readers who attend the preview will be able to enter a fund-raising raffle with a first prize of two nights in Paris for two people. Winners of the Paris trip, courtesy of EuroDrive, will take their car to the French capital by train on Le Shuttle and stay, on a room-only basis, at the Frantour Berthier hotel, located between Montmartre and the Champs Elysees. It has an indoor swimming pool, four restaurants and an underground car park.

There are three runner-up prizes of a case of red or white wine from the prestigious estate Baron Philippe de Rothschild.

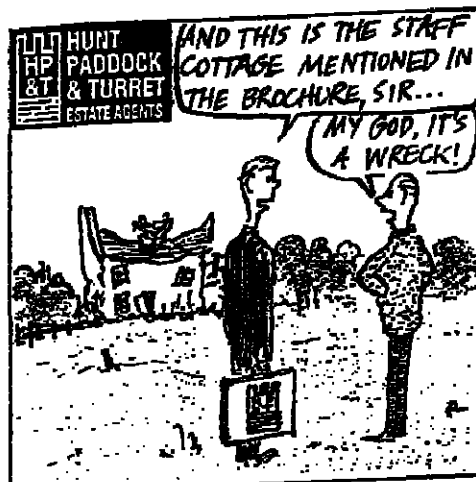


London Zoo is donating two further prizes: an Animal Adoption, which includes a free ticket to the Zoo and a photograph of the winner's favourite species; and a Lifewatch membership, which includes four issues of Lifewatch magazine, invitations to members' events and a ticket for Whipsnade Wild Animal Park. The stallholders are also contributing to the raffle so there will be lots of prizes to win.

Zoobazaar is at the Regency Suite, London Zoo, Outer Circle, Regents Park, London, NW1. Preview: Tues, November 28 6pm-9pm. tickets £5. Public day: Wed, November 29, 10am-5pm. tickets £2. To book your ticket and for a list of stallholders, please call 0171 722 7662.

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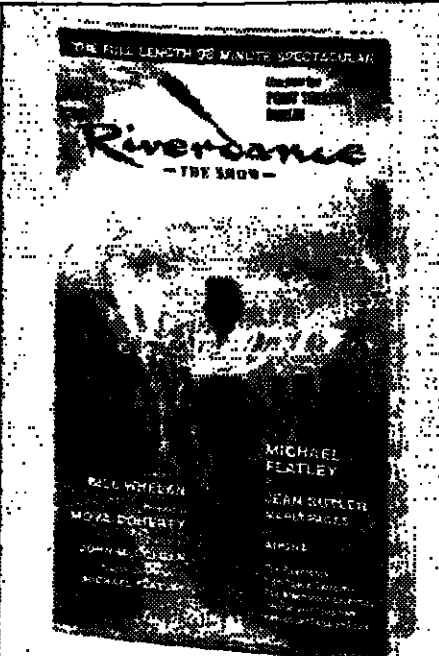
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SHOPAROUND ALSO APPEARS ON PAGES 5 & 6

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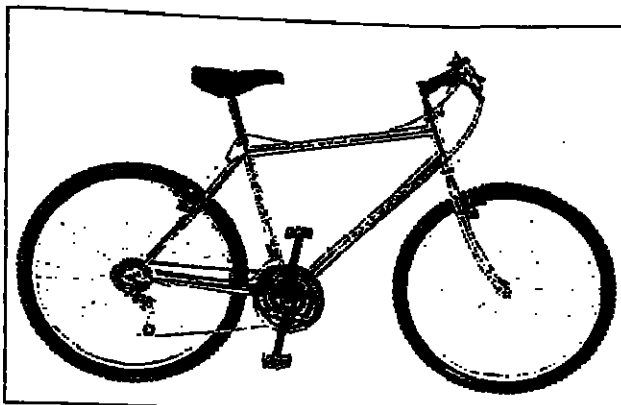
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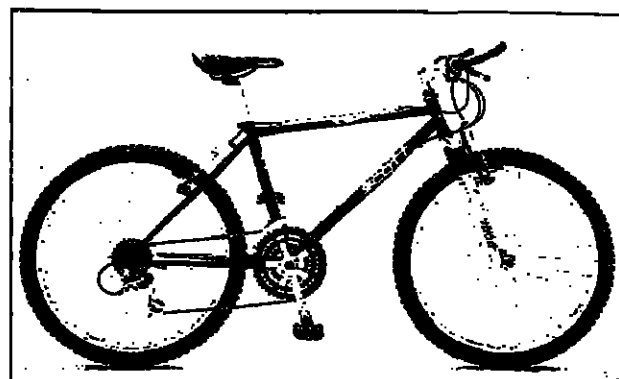
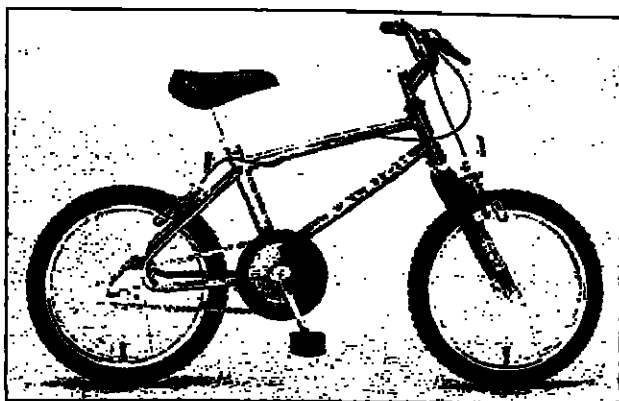
# SHOPPING

13

With so many children's bicycles on sale and at widely varying prices, how do you choose?



The £199 Daves Touchdown, left, the £100 Activator, by Raleigh, and, main picture, Halfords' £34.99 Apollo G Wizz



The £399 Scott, part of a range for nine to 12-year-olds

## Ride on: a guide to two-wheel street cred

As the start of the Christmas season demands for a new bicycle. If your children are not already harassing you for a dream on wheels, be warned: your time will come. According to the Bicycle Association, 60 per cent of bikes are bought for youngsters and more than 80 per cent of schoolchildren own two-wheel vehicles, which doubtless explains the weight of peer group pressure.

Most bikes for school-age children start at about £60 and can leap up to £300. With the enormous range of colours, sizes and styles available, it is easy to make a costly mistake, especially if your offspring are being seduced by pre-Christmas advertising.

Aim to go to a specialist shop rather than a toy shop. Think twice about bikes that are boxed for home assembly. A good outlet will not only put the bike together for you but also check stability and performance, as well as providing an after-sales service.

This year, Raleigh — established in 1887 and, with 30 per cent of British business, the market leader — has a new reflective paint finish called Reflex. This is achieved by spraying glass beads on to the frame before painting in bright green or dark red.

As well as being a safety feature, it gives the bike the flashy street cred so beloved of children. The Reflex finish is on Raleigh ranges for six to ten-year-olds, including the £130 Isis model for girls, with a 20in wheel and five gears.

Reflex also features in teenage ranges, including the £160 26in-wheel Max 15 mountain bike, which has a granite finish. Another new Raleigh feature is Synchro Shock suspension, which helps the bike to glide smoothly over bumps and potholes. Examples are the £150, five-gear, 20in-wheel Activator 20 range, for seven to ten-year-olds, available in black and metallic red, and the £100 16in-wheel Activator 16 for five to seven-year-olds (black and bright blue). Other traditional bikes include Townsend's 18in-wheel Dancer range, with a rear carrier, for six to nine-year-olds, in bright red (£95).

Scott UK has a Junior Racing range for nine to 12-year-olds, price £399, with 24in wheels, in dark blue with yellow Scott motif on the



Apollo Turbo, £99.99: from Halfords' junior range

crossbar. Scott is offering a free first service (within the first six months) to all new bike owners.

Mountain bikes account for at least 50 per cent of the children's bike market, according to Jamie Kennedy, deputy editor of *Cycle Industry*, the trade magazine. A true mountain bike has thick, knobby treaded tyres, straight handlebars and up to 24 gears. It also has a small, light frame which glides over rough surfaces. Good examples include the Daves Cycles Touchdown range for boys and girls with 20/24/26in wheels, 18 gears and cantilever brakes. In green or yellow, it costs £199 for models to suit eight-year-olds and above.

If your children need help with gear-changing, Raleigh has a grips shift feature on its Max 5 20in mountain bike bikes for seven to ten-year-olds in Reflex Emerald (£145). To change gear, simply twist the grip on the handle bars. This gear-changing-by-feel helps to keep young eyes on the road.

BMX bikes — robust, small frames and only one gear — are making a small comeback this year, says Graham Smith, buyer at Halfords. Even small children can get in on the act with the £44.99 Universal Cycles 12in-wheel BMX Bandit for two to four-year-olds with red frame, plus stabilisers.

Others include the £85 Townsend Tomboy for girls aged five to ten in Bubblegum Pink with 16in, 18in and 20in

wheels. For the over-eights, Universal has the metallic blue £79.99 Super Tracker with 16in or 20in wheels.

Halfords has launched a Price Points range to keep costs down for overburdened parents. It includes the £34.99 postbox-red Apollo G Wizz, which, with a 12in wheel and removable stabilisers, is a good starter bike for three to five-year-olds. Bikes in its Junior Mountain range, with 20in wheels and in colours that include strobe purple/pink and metallic green, for seven to 11-year-olds, cost £79.99 to £144.99.

It is also worth inquiring whether specialist bicycle shops will take an old bicycle in part-exchange.

For today's young rider, accessories are almost as important as the bikes. Stabilisers are usually available on all ranges for five to seven-year-olds but may cost extra so check first.

Some ranges have a sandwich-box carrier and wicker basket in front, among them Summer Breeze by Universal Cycles for four to eight-year-olds, in pink and mint green, and with 16in wheels and stabilisers (£69.99). Raleigh's £90 16in-wheel Genie, for girls aged five to seven, has a doll carrier and removable stabilisers, and is available in red or pink and purple.

JANE BIDDER



THESE cycle specialists will put you in touch with stockists:  
 Universal Cycles, 01268 745311;  
 Daves Cycles, 0121 7066662; Raleigh, 0115 9420202; Halfords, 0345 626625; Townsend Cycles, 01942 262026; Scott UK, 01670 712129.  
 The Cyclists' Touring Club

### Where to buy

publishes a free leaflet entitled *Buying a Bike*. Send a large, stamped, addressed envelope (reference *Buying a Bike/Times*) to the CTC.

Conterell House, 69 Meadow, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3HS (01483 417217).

The Bicycle Association publishes a free leaflet *What Bike?* Send an SAE to the association at Starley House, Eaton Road, Coventry CV1 2FH (01203 553838).

### Hand-made in the best of British tradition

## Crafty thoughts for Christmas giving

AT MIN & DELL, I have discovered a catalogue for anyone who bemoans the fading of traditional British crafts. The company was set up by Anna Nicholas to market products made by older people of her acquaintance and to give the craftsman and women a source of income. The company accepts craftspeople from the age of 50, but some are in their eighties. They work at home, and all products are hand-made using natural materials.

As well as the catalogue items, all of which are exclusive, you can commission knitwear, wooden boxes and animals and silverware. All gifts in the collection are presented in either red cotton drill bags or red presentation boxes with gold tassels.

You could choose from the sterling silver Ammonite collection, which includes a set of four place-card holders (2in long, £89) and menu holders (2½in long, £45 each). Or consider the white "cobweb" christening robe (£75) and shawl (£72, or £130 for the set), of one-ply Shetland wool, with the delicate look of lace.

Min & Dell also sells traditional hand-knits, including a Fair Isle design for girls in navy blue and green with bright ladybirds on front, back and sleeves and ladybird buttons (ages four to five and six to seven, cardigan £35, beret £14).

Silver jewellery is also on offer — cockleshell cufflinks (£38), shirt studs (£26 for four), earrings (£25) and hand-painted cufflinks including Father Christmas on a gold background (£20). There is also some wonderful woodwork in the catalogue, from the simple hand-carved and turned heart-shaped mahogany box (4in diameter £25) and a hand-turned round stud box, also in mahogany (3in diameter £20).

For children, you can choose from five sets of beautifully carved animals — including Dinosaur World (five prehistoric animals, £25), Min & Dell Farm (six farmyard animals, £25) and the Magic Forest (six woodland animals, £25). There is also lovely jewellery and high-quality basketware to consider.

These are things to treasure — traditionally made yet up to the minute in design, so there is nothing stuffy about them.

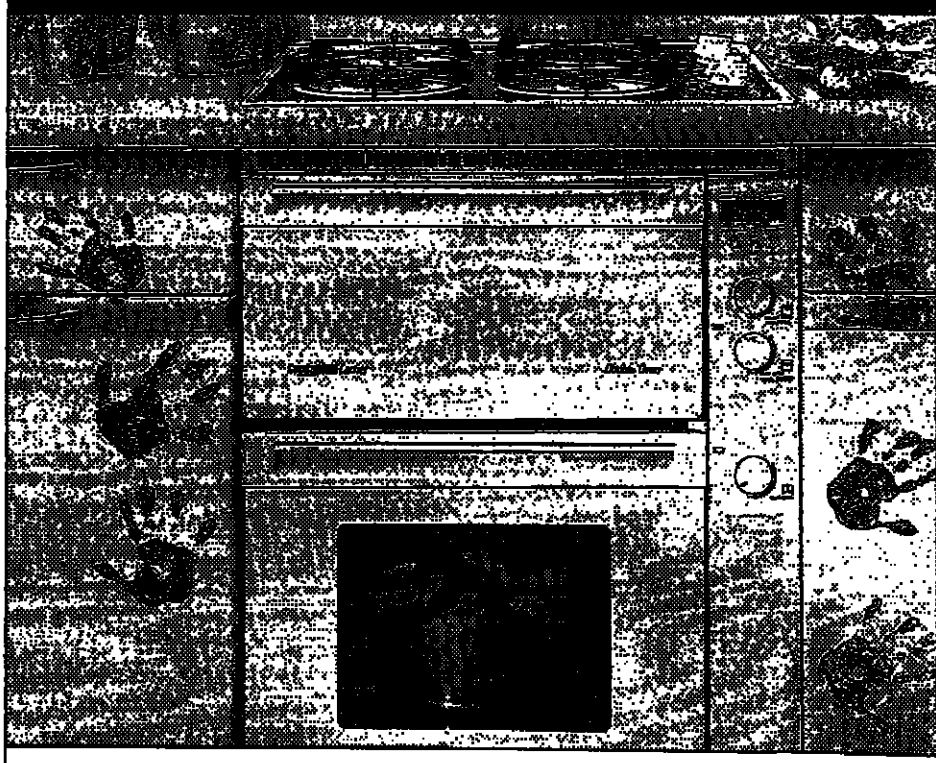
STEPHANIE LEWIS  
 For a free catalogue, contact Min & Dell Ltd, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE (0171-976 6645, fax 0171-233 9136). Last order date for Christmas is December 20.



Min & Dell's farmyard animals: £25

Other covetable textiles are the hand-made silk and chiffon scarves in marbled soft greens, greys and beiges in generous sizes (silk 43in square, chiffon about 34in square, £40 each). Also good value are the 3½in-square hand-embroidered miniature potpourri cushions (set of four, £25).

## Creda make stay clean ovens. [If only we made stay clean kids.]



There's one place in the kitchen you won't find sticky dabs. The inside of a Creda oven, like the stylish Gaschal featured here. In fact, you'll find Credaclean stay clean even liners on every single cooker we make. And with prices starting from around £250, they're not just for the filthy rich. To find out more about Britain's best-selling electric cookers, ring the Creda Answercentre on 0541 546474.

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Always on Page 2 and  
in Weekend Mirror



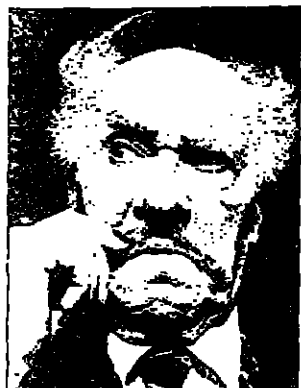
## BOOKS

## Three knights' bed and board

Michael Arditti revels in the racy details of famous theatrical lives

THREE of the century's best-loved actor-knights, Laurence Olivier, Ralph Richardson and Robert Stephens, come under the spotlight in the latest batch of theatrical books. Olivier is their common thread, taking the leading role in the diaries of an employee and playing show-stealing cameos in the memoirs of a colleague and the biography of a friend.

In 1956, Olivier appointed the 23-year-old Colin Clark as third assistant director on the film of Rattigan's *The Prince and The Showgirl* which he was making with Marilyn Monroe. Its fairy-tale story was not reflected in the pro-



Richardson: partial to gin

duction. Olivier treated Monroe with condescension; she responded by bringing the worst of Hollywood to Pinewood. The ensuing mayhem makes it clear why Clark's father, Kenneth, failed to include cinema in his history of civilisation.

Whether stumbling on a naked Monroe ("All I could see were beautiful white and pink curves"), or suffering the proprietorial prurience of her husband, Arthur Miller ("He really is unpleasant"), Clark's observations are a delight.

At the end of the shoot, Olivier went to the Royal Court to play Archie Rice in *The Entertainer*, where his understudy was Robert Stephens. Stephens went on to do much of his finest work for Olivier at the Old Vic, until a fierce row left him to spend

■ **THE PRINCE, THE SHOWGIRL AND ME**  
By Colin Clark  
HarperCollins, £16.99

■ **KNIGHT ERRANT**  
By Robert Stephens  
Hodder & Stoughton, £18.99

■ **RALPH RICHARDSON**  
By John Miller  
Sidgwick & Jackson, £16.99

several years professionally adrift.

His career had a remarkable late flowering with his Stratford Falstaff, and his memoirs are similarly Falstaffian in their roguish, rum-bustious lust for life. Green-room gossip will revel in his scurrilous stories; drama students will learn from his technical tips; theatre lovers will cheer his attacks on directors; though critics may wince at his judgments of plays (*The Lady from the Sea* "the most awful claptrap"; *A Patriot for Me* "wonderful"). These are the most irreverent, engaging and amusing theatrical memoirs I have ever read.

John Miller's authorised biography of Ralph Richardson is a far more sober affair, in spite of his subject's penchant for tumbler of nearly neat gin. He was an intensely private man and Miller respects his posthumous privacy, so much so that he barely mentions either of his wives.

On hearing that Donald Sinden was writing a book about acting, Richardson advised him, "Don't tell them how it's done", and it is clear that neither Miller nor anyone else quite knows how Richardson did it. Instead, Miller focuses on what he did, from pantomime as Dick Whittington in Birmingham, to his first great stage partnership with Gielgud at the Old Vic, his second with Olivier at the New, ending with the glorious Indian summer with Gielgud in the double act they dubbed "The Broker's Men".

Richardson once said, "Silence is the paper on which the actor writes"; all three of these writers manage to recapture some of its most glorious sounds.

Gerald Kaufman applauds the sheer zest and good nature of Roy Hattersley's political memoirs

## Life of the party

■ **WHO GOES HOME?**  
Scenes from a political life  
By Roy Hattersley  
Little, Brown, £17.99

book requires little toil and no need for tedious research (though he has relied on his memory a little too recklessly).

But who cares if he gets wrong the geographical location of Gaiskell's constituency, the title of a Socialist song, the title of a Bergman film, the

at the shrine of Hugh Gaiskell, of whose shrill "fight and fight and fight again" oration on nuclear disarmament Hattersley recollects that "nothing I have ever heard has moved me as much".

Soon to retire from the Commons, Hattersley looks back on his political career with a long string of anecdotes. For someone who possesses Hattersley's indefatigable writing talent, this sort of

spelling of the Labour Chief Whip's surname, or the name of Blackpool's principal hotel? Reference books can provide such information. What reference books cannot provide is the sheer zest for the political life — together with a refreshing absence of malice — that permeates every page of this good-natured book.

It is true that, with some effort, Hattersley can summon up the tartness to say of David

of the Labour Party manifesto with which he supplied them.

Hattersley declares that he owes "the best parts of my life to the Labour Party". He repaid that debt in 1981 when, instead of stampeding out of the party with "that nice Mrs Williams and that clever Dr Owen", he (with others of us) stood his ground and so saved Labour until the time when Tony Blair would enter into his inheritance.

However, David Owen was right about one thing — if, perhaps, only one — when he remarked to Jim Callaghan, "Say what you like about old Hattersley, he stabs you in the front, not the back".



Shooting for glory: Ipswich centre-forward Garnes beats the Bournemouth goalkeeper, Godwin, at Highbury in 1952

VERY much a game of two halves, this latest model from the latest boom industry: football publishing. The first part is fascinating, dealing with 25 years either side of the Second World War, up to about 1970, when football was the national game, thanks largely to the sheer size of the working class.

Those were the days when even second division games drew crowds as big as the populations of small cities: when everybody ate chips, drank pints and smoked 40 fags a day — and that was just the players: when "it was a way of life in which men found their niche because there weren't any women on the ter-

## Before the bung went in

■ **KICKING AND SCREAMING**  
By Rogan Taylor and Andrew Ward  
Robson Books, £16.95

aces", according to Jack Curtis, one of the 200 or so interviewees whose testimonies make up the book.

This golden age is recalled with wit and colour and an admirable lack of sentiment. But then came money, tele-

vision, glamour, celebrity, hooliganism and two decades in which most men found something else to do with their Saturday afternoons. Too much of the second half concentrates on coaching techniques, and a familiar chronological treatment of the English national side.

The shortcomings of oral history mean that a full analysis of what went wrong with the culture of English football from 1970 to 1990 is absent. Still, the game is now recovering, and this and the many other worthwhile books on its history are part of that process.

ROBERT CRAMPTON

## On the road to himself

Jan Morris admires what may be Paul Theroux's best travel book yet

THIS smashing book is a sort of anthology, or epitome, of Therouxness. It ostensibly describes a protracted and timeless journey around the shores of the Mediterranean, by train, ship, taxi and, all too often, unspeakably uncomfortable bus. It really describes Paul Theroux.

This is an extremely intricate subject in itself, and set against so tangled and varied a background it assumes a new complexity, even it seems for Theroux himself. Often he stops to wonder what on earth he is up to, and why he has been ambling about in this apparently aimless way. "I was not writing a book — I was living my life..."

The Theroux techniques become more subtle with each work, whether it be novel or travel book. On the face of it, *The Pillars of Hercules* is the purest kind of travel writing, recounting the events of a journey day by day. The author tells us what happened, he records what he has been thinking. But between the lines an elaborate self-portrait is developing. At first the narrator seems positively guileless; halfway through the book he is in full character as the celebrated travelling curmudgeon; and by the end of the long adventure (a year and a half), he has established an oddly wistful new persona as The Wanderer, or The Man Without A Shadow, frequently telephoning home to Honolulu to appease his loneliness.

His journey is mostly ghastly. What dismal hotels he stays in. What a lot of pornography he finds. How he loathes Greeks, bullfighters and British tourists. What

■ **THE PILLARS OF HERCULES**  
By Paul Theroux  
Hamish Hamilton, £17.50

horrible Israeli immigration men he encounters. For Therouxians such as me, this is, of course, music to the ear. We do not want Theroux contented, we want him truculent and resentful.

But there are many generous perceptions in this book, too, flashes of history, ever-



Theroux: oddly wistful

lively descriptions, bags of courage, and shrewd debunkings of ostentation and autocracy. It all looks so easy, and I imagine there are tyros all over the world trying to write travel books in the Theroux manner. But, of course, his is the art, and it is art of the cleverest kind.

This is a terrific book, full of fun as well as anxiety, of vivid characters and curious experiences — perhaps the best of all Theroux's travel books. The foreground (Theroux) is unforgotten and the background (the Mediterranean) has never been more gruesomely glimpsed.

'Tense, topical and brutally authentic ... a damn good read.' - Frederick Forsyth

MURRAY SMITH

Bestselling author of *The Devil's Juggler* and *Stone Dancer*

KILLING TIME

MICHAEL JOSEPH

Death stalks United Nations week in New York as spymaster David Jardine battles against the clock

## Language barrier

THE UNNAMED heroine of *A Feather on the Breath of God* describes the perfect ballerina's body as "one long curveless line, fleshless, all muscle and bone", which is a pretty good description of Sigrid Nunez's delicate, spare prose. Language and ways of telling are of vital importance in this extraordinary first novel, in which life is presented as something encoded and inextricably bewildering.

In the narrator's household, her Chinese father hardly speaks at all; her German mother teaches herself English, thereby setting up another degree of separation between herself and the uncommunicative husband she detests.

This tragically mismatched couple met in Germany after the Second World War. Both come from backgrounds complicated beyond the dangers and unsettledness of wartime: neither feels at home in New York, where they live precariously. They are cruelly lost in translation.

The effect on their daughter is heartbreaking. She grows up without anything that might be remotely described as normal: her only experience of families sharing meal times, making conversation or showing affection is from

■ **A FEATHER ON THE BREATH OF GOD**  
By Sigrid Nunez  
Bantam, £5.99

watching television sitcoms — a poor guide to the real world.

For a time, ballet lessons provide her with a glorious structure. Pain and tedium, for so long a part of her existence, are, in the form of dance exercises, a means to a dreamy end. Later, men become the focal point. In the masterly concluding section of the book, she describes a ruinous affair with Vadim, a Russian immigrant, as close to a lover from hell as any man can be: pimp, druggie and married to somebody else. The most seductive thing about him is his newly acquired English, which he transforms into a tongue that throbs with passion: "I very love you". "When you put your head on my breast, my heart runs out of me".

For all that, this is a deeply moving story of a harsh and sometimes terrifying upbringing. It is sweetened by a penetrating and sardonic candour that makes you laugh through your tears.

PENNY PERRICK

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CENTURY



# BOOKS

15

## England, their England

Elizabeth Buchan on a humane and honest portrait of middle-class, postwar society

CASTING OFF  
By Elizabeth Jane Howard  
Macmillan, £15.99



Howard: grace and intelligence

July 1945 sees the family in some disarray. The war has made inroads: spiritually, physically and financially. The Brig and the Duchy are old. Hugh, the eldest son, is still grieving for the death of his wife, Sybil. Edward, the second son, is hovering between his wife, Villy, and his good-looking mistress, Diana. Rachel is retreating further into duty while Sid watches in despair. Rupert has returned from occupied France and is endeavouring to rebuild his marriage to Zoe.

The young are casting off. Inadequately mothered, Louise, an inadequate mother in turn, is locked into an awful marriage. Polly is recovering from her unrequited love for Archie, the Cazalets' most trusted friend. Clary is splintering into its separate units and detaching from Home Place in Sussex, where the wives and children took refuge from the bombs. And, along with old assumptions and certainties, servants are vanishing and

Off is pessimistic. On the contrary, although it is more fractured in feel than the previous volumes, it relies on a conventional romantic structure to tie up the ends. A fresh wind is also blowing through the story and change is taking place. Polly, Clary and Louise are beginning to take charge of their lives in a manner denied to their mothers. As Hugh woos another woman, he tells her, "I want to know how you feel": a triumphant regeneration after a marriage whose jungle paths had been so tangled around politeness and diffidence that neither party was ever honest with the other.

If reading fiction is to try on other people's lives for the fit, then the Cazalets' Chronicle is virtually without a wrinkle. With their immersion in everyday detail and their careful delineation of the gap between classes and generations, the novels constitute a precise and convincing piece of social history.

Yet, to consider that this is the total sum is wrong. In *Casting Off*, and in the others, the author draws the reader with seemingly effortless grace, craft and intelligence into the inner lives of her characters, and into the subterranean emotions and loyalties of a family, and does so with a radiant humanity and truth.

Who dares to live to tell the tale

IMMEDIATE ACTION  
By Andy McNab  
Bantam, £15.99

ONE OF the most memorable television images of the past decade was of the black-clad SAS storming the Iranian embassy in 1980. Before then, the public knew little of the Special Air Service or its motto "Who Dares Wins". But that single, fearless act, beamed into every British home, transformed the Regiment into a national fixation, spawning scores of books and films of variable quality.

Andy McNab's new memoir is the real thing. I doubt that his vivid recollections of years in the SAS reveal much that Britain's enemies did not know already. Nonetheless, it is not hard to see why the Ministry of Defence tried to ban this book. The strength of *Immediate Action* lies in its detail. After more than 300 pages, one has a sense of what it is to be one of the world's most lethal soldiers.

This book's predecessor, *Bravo Two Zero*, an account of SAS action behind enemy lines in the Gulf War, was a compelling read, full of gamey language and recollections of endurance. In *Immediate Action*, McNab tells the story of his military career up till then, and tells it well.

A tearaway from Bermondsey, McNab discovered he had an instinctive aptitude for army life. For this promising young infantryman, joining the SAS quickly became an obsession and the first third of the book describes his determined efforts to pass his grueling selection tests.

Day after day, he marched in full kit through all weathers to make the grade. He was then sent to the Malaysian jungle to withstand the least comfortable conditions in the world. Accepted as one of the team, McNab embarked upon a life of astonishing danger and intermittent violence — a life he relished until he left the army as its most decorated serviceman.

It is said that you have to be a psychopath to be in the SAS, but this book tells a different tale. What shines through is a sense of belonging, a fierce and patriotic desire to defend squadron, regiment, army, nation.

Even before joining the SAS, McNab says of his first Ulster tour that "I was there because I wanted to do something for my own little gang". It is this simple integrity that makes *Immediate Action* much more than a jingoistic adventure story.

MATTHEW D'ANCONA

Nelson Mandela and his Afrikaner prison guard became unlikely friends, says Justin Cartwright

## Jailer to the President

AS I READ the extraordinary story of the friendship between Nelson Mandela and his jailer, James Gregory, I found tears in my eyes, even though at times I wondered if the book gives anything like the whole story. Some of the doubts are in the detail. The burgeoning of their relationship, for instance, is left rather vague and the Robben Island section of it, 13 years, is less significant to Mandela than the book suggests. Mandela in his autobiography says that they became close only after his transfer to Pollsmoor in 1982.

Enough quibbling. It seems that from the moment in 1969 when Gregory saw Mandela standing tall, "his ramrod back and broad shoulders prominent" amid a group of prisoners on Robben Island, he was on the way to finding the father figure his life had, so far, lacked. Gregory was a loner, an Afrikaner farm boy who had been neglected by his parents. Gregory, or his collaborator, makes much of his early upbringing on a farm, where his only friend was a Zulu boy, Bafana, from whom he was separated when he went away to school.

Gregory's history is, in some ways, typical of the Afrikaners who joined the civil service in numbers. Government employment gave many economically marginal Afrikaners a living after apartheid's formal introduction, so the police and prison service have long been a home for the young, the tough and the none too fastidious.

Yet Gregory was clearly different. He tells of Mandela's distress at the treatment of his family, and his longing

GOODBYE BAFANA:  
Nelson Mandela. My Prisoner  
My Friend  
By James Gregory  
Headline, £17.99

to see his children and grandchildren. When Mandela's son was killed in a motor accident, Gregory then a young man, lent him what support he could. At exactly the same age and almost 20 years later, Gregory's son was killed in a car crash and Mandela appears to have saved Gregory from despair and even suicide by talking to him daily for weeks.

For 24 years, Gregory had to censor Mandela's letters and listen to his family meetings. He does not say if he was expected to report them to Pretoria, but he acquired a knowledge of the intimate details of Mandela's family life second to none. The more he was involved personally in their lives, the more he tried to be as helpful and considerate in small detail as he could.

Although not every detail of the book rings true, it is a remarkable story full of touching moments. The account of Gregory holding Mandela's hand and reassuring him in front of astonished nurses as he came round from an operation brought tears to my eyes for the unimpeachable time. And Winnie's horror on learning that Nelson had learnt from a warder how to make a *braai*, the barbecue which is a quintessential white South African pastime, is hilarious.

In the end Gregory's desolation at the prospect of losing Mandela's company — "the many wonderful hours we spent together" — is heart-breakingly authentic.



Taking his first steps away from his jailers, Nelson Mandela walks out of prison

### THURSDAY

Oliver Letwin on Simon Jenkins and Peter Hennessy; Woodrow Wyatt on the Gladwyn diaries; and Mark Steyn on Dennis Potter

### ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER FACE. REVERSO DUO.

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### NEW IN PAPERBACK

THE EVENING STAR  
By Larry McMurtry  
Orion, £6.99

FOLLOWING his bitter-sweet blockbuster, *Terms of Endearment*, Larry McMurtry has produced a sequel in *The Evening Star* which, despite its airport novel size and cover, is resonant with the same gentle irony and acid observations of family life which made its predecessor so appealing.

Fifteen years after the death of her daughter, Aurora Greenway approaches her seventies with her feisty maid and sidekick, Rosie Duolap. Her grandchildren have gone their own ways: one of them, Tommy, serving a life sentence for murder. Aurora's approach to

life remains the same winning combination of vanity, charm and reluctant kindness and Rosie provides an ally in her continuing and highly enjoyable manipulation of both suitors and friends. By the end of the book, Aurora is forced to acknowledge the roll of time that brings a new generation to centre stage.

McMurtry shows consummate skill in exposing the haunting sadness that hovers beneath the seeming ordinariness of life. He is attuned more to the shadows than the bright lights of human activity and identifies the randomness of events; celebrating the courage with which we face old age and, finally, death.

MY LIFE  
By Marc Chagall  
Peter Owen, £12.95

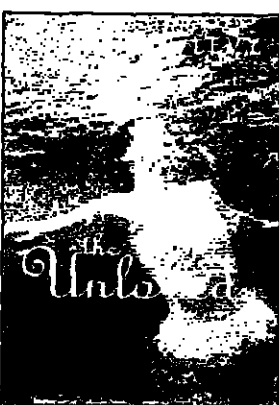
BORN into an impoverished Jewish family in the depths of Tsarist Russia at a time when Jews required a permit to travel even within their own country, Chagall nevertheless rose to become one of the most celebrated artists of the 20th century. Studied with his own illustrations, this wildly sentimental but utterly enchanting memoir takes us on a breathless journey from childhood escapades to art school in St Petersburg with Countess Tolstoy and Nijinsky, to his tribulations during the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. A treat.



THE HOUNDING OF JOHN THOMAS  
By Craig Brown  
Arrow, £5.99

HAVING bettered himself with elocution lessons, the former Mellors (who has changed his name to Oliver Thomas to escape notoriety) loses Lady Chatterley to another man but makes a fortune in groceries and sends his son to Oxford. There, the obnoxious John Thomas hones the talents that will make him a brilliantly corrupt politician who makes Francis Urquhart seem tame. But his luck runs out when he makes a mess of murdering a biographer who was about to reveal his parentage. This superbly witty satire targets everyone from prime ministers to lavatory attendants.

Contributors: Lucy Lethbridge, Jake Michie, Nicki Household, Alison Burns



THE UNLOVED  
By Deborah Levy  
Vintage, £5.99

A CHRISTMAS holiday in Normandy. Open fires, oysters and calvados, games of Murder in the Dark. A child reads her rebellious grandmother's diary, dated "Tangiers, 1957". Outside, thin trees shiver, while inside, just flickers between the grown-ups and terrible international memories are revived. While the children eavesdrop and fantasise, the adults corrupt each other. Husbands go rutting. Food rots in the refrigerator. Even Inspector Blanc, investigating a real murder, uses a knife-blade for his lovmaking. Deborah Levy's surreal chiller takes an X-ray of European culture and elegantly pronounces it dead.

### WATERSTONE'S QUIZ ANSWERS

THE ANSWERS to the Bookworm quiz in our supplement A New Chapter on October 5 were as follows:

1 Geoffrey Chaucer, 2 William Shakespeare, 3 John Donne, 4 C. S. Lewis, 5 Edgar Allan Poe, 6 Milton Keynes, 7 Blood, 8 Fanny Price, 9 Anthony Price, 10 A Civic, 11 Turning of the Screw, 12 Cuts, 13 Vivienne Bowdler, 14 Moll Cutpurse, 15 Dr James Mortimer, 16 House of the Medallions, 16 Gordon Brown, 17 Women in Love, 18 Nicholas Dyer, 19 Hawkmoor, 20 Catherine Mortimer, 21 Northanger Abbey, 22 Winkle the Pooh, 23 All were the Nobel Prize for Literature, 24 P. H. Newby, 25 The Conquerors, 26 Lord Emsworth, 27 Frederick Raphael, 28 T. S. Eliot, 29 Palsgrave, 30 Chaim Potok, 31 Anthony Trollope, 32 David Lodge, 33 Norman Mailer, 34 Margaret Forster, 35 A. A. Wilson, 36 The Color of Money, 37 Hilda Belloc, 38 D. H. Lawrence, 39 Ernest Hemingway, 40 Joachim Maria Machado de Assis.

There were two typographical errors: Question 8 should have read Sir Thomas, not Edmund, Bertram. Question 25 should have read "pneumatic", not "eternal", bliss. These two questions were discounted when entries were marked.

## DOROTHY DUNNETT

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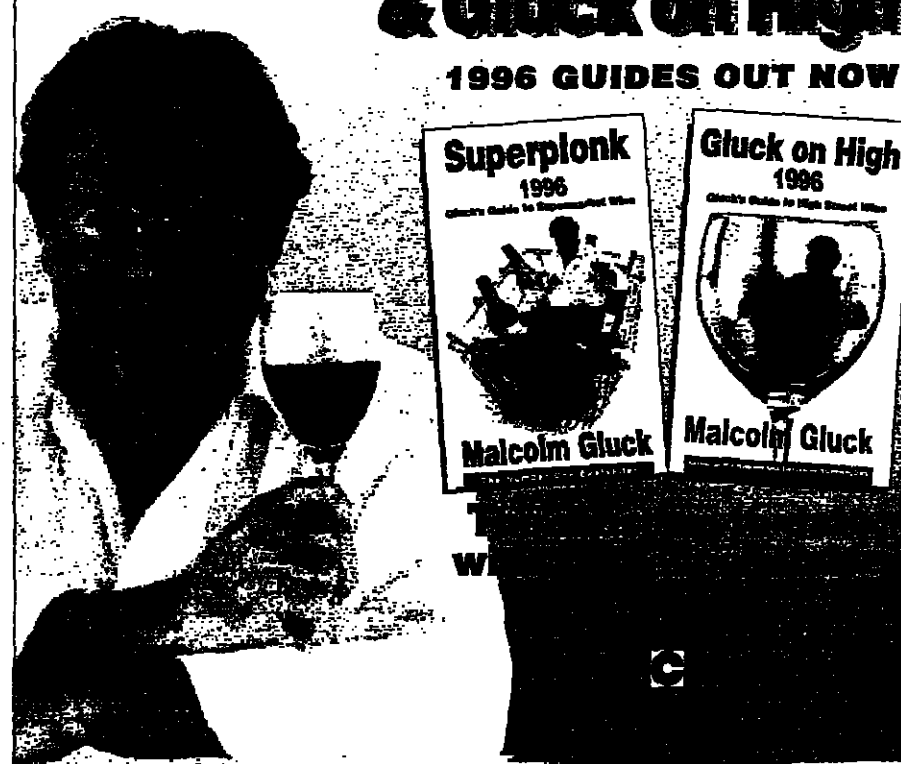
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he road himself



and brutally a damn good

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LING ME

United New York David Jardine the clock



CHRISTMAS GETAWAYS: Jill Crawshaw selects unusual British places to spend the festive season...

# Make merry in an island fort, manor or lighthouse

## CHRISTMAS FOLLIES

**ALDERNEY'S** Fort Clonque is reached by a causeway and was built in 1847 to house ten 64-pounder guns to protect the harbour. Now restored by the Landmark Trust, it can be rented over Christmas and costs £1,411 a week, sleeping 12 in simple, though not sparsely, accommodation.

The trust has other eccentric Christmas boltholes, including the Pineapple in Dunmore, Stirlingshire, a two-storey summer house built for the 4th Earl of Dunmore between 1760-80. This can take four people, and costs £687 for the week. Also in Scotland, the Old Place of Monreith is a fine manor house two miles from the sea, and traditionally furnished for eight holidaymakers, at £771 a week.

St Winifred's Well, near Oswestry in Shropshire (see picture) is visited by pilgrims. It is in a secluded spot for two, and still available at £480 for the week.

For a really get-away-from-it-all Christmas, the trust offers several properties on Lundy island, in the Bristol Channel, though there is the island tavern to escape to if too much togetherness gets you down. The most remote of these properties is the Admiralty Lookout (£337 for four people), which has bunk beds and no electricity. Another, The Old Light, the former lighthouse keeper's quarters, has more mod cons, sleeps five and costs £550 for the week.

● **The Landmark Trust.** Shottesbrooke, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3SW (01628 825925). Its handbook costs £8.50, refunded if you book a property.

## DORMOUSE PATROL

VOLUNTEERS with enthusiasm, wellies and waterproofs are needed by the British Trust for Conserva-

tion Volunteers (BTCV) to work on some of its 30 projects over Christmas and New Year. You could spend Christmas Day coppicing an old woodland in Wiltshire, clearing scrub in Lincolnshire, planting trees in County Down, or helping to restore the garden of Heligan Manor in Cornwall. Or you could spend Hogmanay at High Head in Cumbria, overlooking the peaks of Skiddaw, repairing hedges.

The organisation's most popular project is in Rockingham Forest, Northampton, the home of more than 60 recorded dormice. The work here is to ensure that the animals can move about freely in their habitat.

No experience is needed for these projects; volunteers from 16-85 are welcome. Prices start at £30 for the week to cover food and simple accommodation, plus a few seasonal trimmings.

● **BTCV.** 01491 824602.

## GREEN COTTAGES

THE National Trust offers about 90 cottages, most with open fires, for parties of two to six for Christmas and New Year.

For a three-day break, you can have a green Christmas at one of its environmentally friendly cottages, which include alternative technology heating, dry-compost lavatories and eco-sensitive materials for washing up and cleaning. Horsey Barn, near the Norfolk Broads, costs £206 for three people on a three-day break.

Less ecologically sound, but dramatically situated, High Lidmoor Farmhouse on the Yorkshire Moors can accommodate five visitors for £456 a week, while Nantlas, originally a 19th-century observatory in the Snowdonia National Park, with magnificent views and sleeping two, can be yours for £292, including a supply of logs and coal.

In South Wales, Quay Cottage at Stackpole Quay, a small natural harbour that used to trade with the Continent, takes three people for £364. Most of the furniture in the cottage has been made at the trust's workshops at Erdig. Every group booking a Christmas break with the National Trust gets a complimentary hamper with traditional pudding, special teas, jams and other festive fare.

● **National Trust Holiday Cottages.** 01225 791199

## RENT A HOSTEL

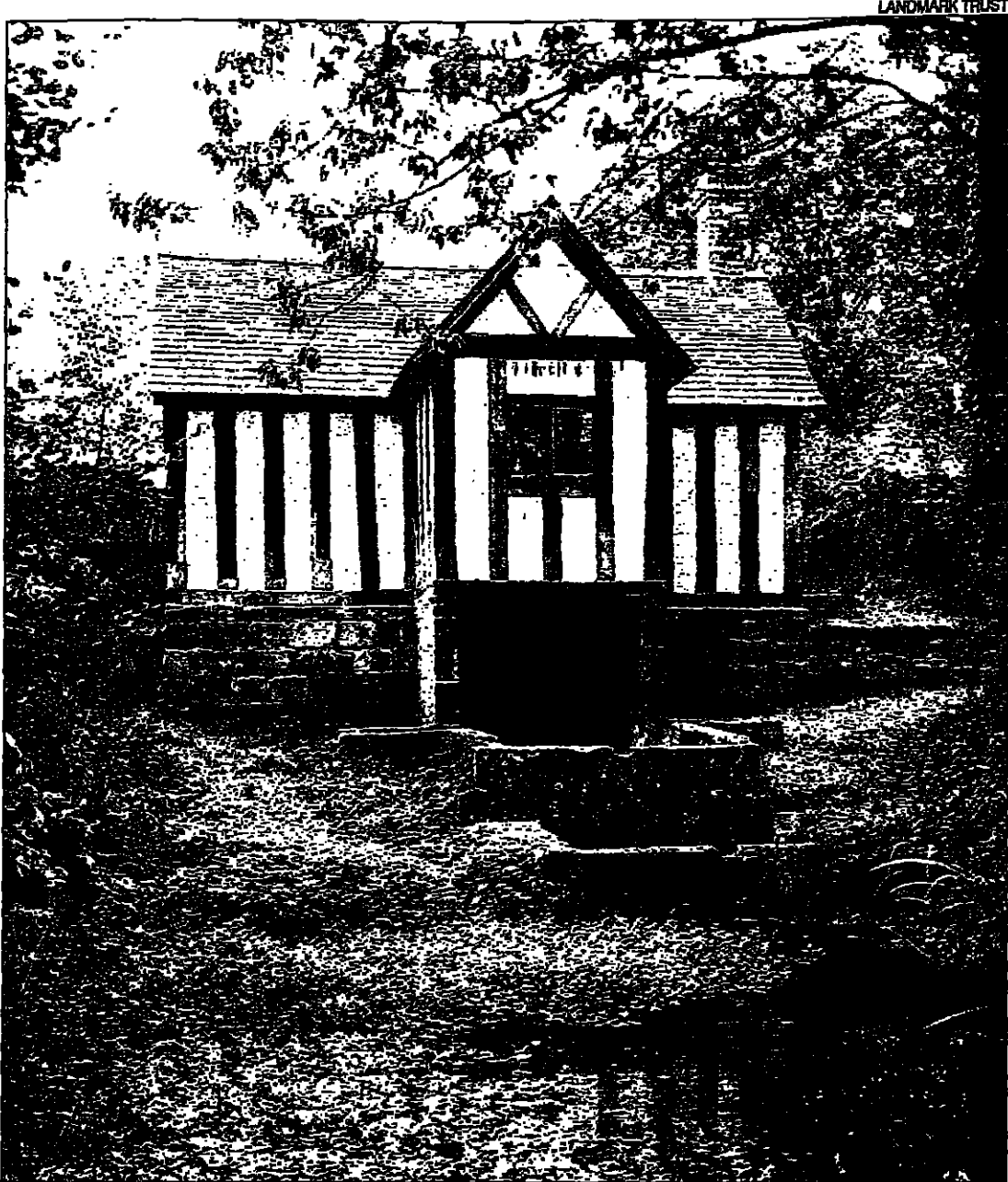
MORE than 30 youth hostels can be hired for large parties of families or friends on a self-catering "Rent a Hostel" Christmas break. Among them is a former watermill (still with wheel) — the Cockerthorpe Youth Hostel in Cumbria — where a three-night break costs £390. The hostel can sleep 28 people.

Ten miles from central London, the Epping Forest Youth Hostel can take 36, and costs £455 for a four-night stay, beginning on Christmas Eve.

Christmas holidays on a full or half-board basis are on offer at other hostels, including Grinton Lodge, a former shooting lodge overlooking Swaledale in North Yorkshire, and a base for exploring Herriot Country. A three-night, full-board stay here, with Christmas and Boxing Day meals, works out at £85 for adults, £65 for children under 18.

You can attend Christmas Mass in the cathedral on a Christmas break at Salisbury Youth Hostel, a listed house with two acres of gardens. Overnight prices are £8 per adult, £5.95 for under 18s, with optional meals on Christmas Eve at £6 and £4 respectively; £15 and £8 on Christmas Day, and £10 and £6 on Boxing Day.

● **YHA.** 01727 855215.



St Winifred's Well, an isolated spot near Oswestry, Shropshire, is ideal for two and costs £480 a week

## ISLANDS AND RETREATS

SOME interesting island homes are offered by Rural Retreats, the prices for which include electricity, logs, grocery hampers and wine.

The House of Machrie, which costs £1,650 for 14 people over Christmas week, was once the principal farm on the island of Arran. The crossing from Ardrossan on the mainland to Brodick takes an hour.

Bonny Blink, on the Isle of

Wight, is on the beach at Seaview. Eight people can share the house for £1,150 a week.

A smaller, remote, semi-detached Edwardian stone cottage on a nature reserve ideal for regular visitors, three miles from Dulverton in Somerset offers the ideal hideaway for four people, but not if they smoke or want to bring dogs. The cost of the cottage is £630 per week.

All houses have open fires or wood-burning stoves, in addition to central heating.

● **Rural Retreats.** 01386 701177

## FESTIVITIES AFLOAT

NARROWBOATS offer escape from rowdy revellers, because Christmas is one of the quietest periods on the waterways. Boating specialists Blakes and Hoseasons can supply well-equipped craft with galleys, carpeting and central heating. There's a wood-burning stove on Butternere, one of Blake's narrowboats based at Bunbury, Cheshire, which costs £521 for a week and can sleep five.

Holly Lass, from Hoseasons, is

based at Guildford, Surrey, and designed and decorated in traditional canal style, and has a solid-fuel stove. It plies the River Wey and the 37-mile Basingstoke Canal.

Cabin cruisers are available on the Norfolk Broads, accommodating from two to 12 people, and costing £360-£500 for a week.

● **Blakes.** 01603 782141; **Hoseasons.** 01502 501010.

## MOUNTAIN GLENS

RURAL Cottage Holidays is a Northern Ireland venture offering restored properties in the country or small villages. From Island Cottage, on a cliff in the Glens of Antrim, you can gaze across the North Channel to the Mull of Kintyre and the Ayrshire Coast. It sleeps five, has a farmhouse kitchen, a sitting room with an open hearth and turf fire, and a garden. Christmas week costs £250.

Overlooking the Mountains of Mourne, an area of outstanding natural beauty, Clonvaraghan House costs £200 for a week's stay for five people. It's near the town of Newcastle and the Royal County Down championship golf course. Be warned: the nearest pub, the Slieve Croob Inn, is three miles away.

● **Rural Cottage Holidays.** 01232 231221.

## POSH PLAYS

BLANDINGS offers castles, mansions, manor houses, smaller exquisite homes and cottages. The stately mansion Birkhill lies in its 2,000 acres on the banks of the Tay Estuary. A Grade I listed property, furnished with antiques, mounted stag heads, family armoury, four pianos and an organ in the billiard room, the house can take a party of up to 16 adults and two children, the latter having their own sitting and playroom. The basic price is £5,500 for the Christmas week. Hunting, shooting, fishing, extra staff and a Mercedes with chauffeur can be arranged.

At a more modest £1,800 a week for eight people, Lymington House in the New Forest, Hampshire, is a renovated vicarage with about two acres of gardens. Near the village of East Boldre, it is under three miles from Beaulieu. There are several golf courses nearby.

● **Blandings.** 01223 393444

Some of the properties mentioned above may now be booked up for the dates given, but the companies have others available.

COLLECT 30 TOKENS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN £20,000 CASH FOR AN 80-DAY HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME — PLUS SAVE 10% ON ALL HOLIDAYS FEATURED

# Win a 15-day holiday to Africa

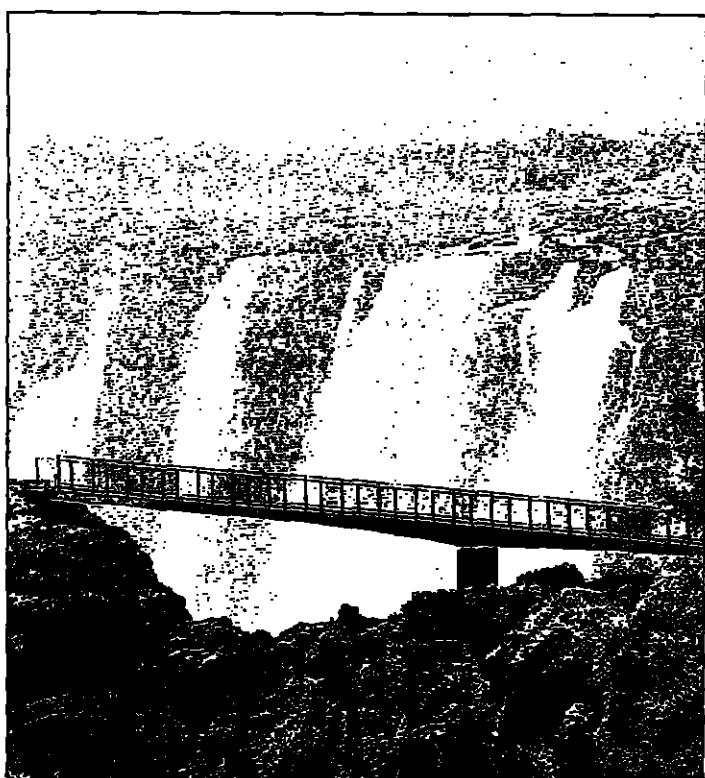
Today and every day until the end of December, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are offering readers the exclusive chance to win one of 80 holidays for two. There is also an opportunity to win £20,000 cash for an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

Our series of 80 holidays around the world includes a range of short breaks, tours, cruises and adventurous trips worth more than £150,000 in total. So far readers have won a variety of exciting holidays including Brazil, Machu Picchu, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Grenada. Today's prize begins a week of luxury safaris to a number of African countries and wine-tasting tours to South Africa.

In addition, readers of both newspapers will be able to book all the holidays featured in our exclusive 80-day competition at a special discount of 10 per cent off the brochure price.

Many of these discounted tours include five-star accommodation, transfers and sightseeing, and the 10 per cent discount applies to all the holidays featured regardless of the price.

There are a number of tour operators collaborating on this Around the World adventure and to get brochures for any of the holidays featured in previous weeks, you should write to: *The Times* Brochure Service, PO Box 9, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8QQ. Bookings for most of the 80 holidays featured should be made through Cox & Kings before February 28, 1996. All other terms and conditions relating to these holiday competitions and offers are contained in the brochures.



Stand on Knife Edge bridge for a spectacular view of Victoria Falls

Next week we will be offering you the chance to win holidays to Kenya, Botswana, Tanzania and Zimbabwe with Africa Exclusive, who arrange safaris for people who have fallen in love with Africa, or who think they might. It is a small company launched five years ago by John Burdett, a former City banker, who used to go there regularly on business trips and who subsequently

became a marketing executive for a relief agency in Africa.

Now he employs 16 staff and has a turnover of £3.5 million. Mr Burdett said, "I had no standard travel experience but do not necessarily think that is a disadvantage. You come at it with fresh eyes and although we had a struggle at first, now we take 800-900 people a year and we focus on the parts of Africa tourists normally don't go to."

**HOW TO WIN £20,000**  
By collecting 30 of the 80 tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* until December 28, you have the chance to win £20,000 cash to spend on an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

The winner will be given help by Cox & Kings to work out a holiday itinerary to take them to some of the places they have always dreamed of going to.

Attach your 30 differently numbered tokens to the completed entry form below and you will be entered into our prize draw. Readers may collect 60 tokens for two chances of winning.

Previously published tokens may be obtained free of charge by sending a sae to:

*The Times/Sunday Times* Holiday of a Lifetime Competition, Token Request, PO Box 480, London E1 9DN. A maximum of four tokens can be supplied per application.



**FOR YOUR 10% HOLIDAY DISCOUNT CALL FOR A BROCHURE ON: 01604 31900**

## A safari and wine trip worth £5,000



A panoramic view from Table Mountain of Cape Town, the oldest town in South Africa, and Table Bay

Today's prize, worth more than £5,000 for two people, is a 15-day safari and wine-tasting holiday, with Africa Exclusive, which has been tailored for *Times* readers. Days 1-4 Arrive in Harare, Zimbabwe, and transfer to Musango Camp on the shore of Lake Kariba, 350 miles north-west, owned by Steve Edwards, a qualified guide. Guests stay for three days in luxury tents which have proper beds and flush toilets. Mr Edwards escorts visitors on safari by boat and on foot for three days when they see a variety of wildlife from elephants riding themselves of insects and lions sauntering to the water's edge to drink. He will warn you to watch out for crocodiles, often undetectable until they move.

Days 5-7 Fly to the new Victoria Falls Safari Lodge or the Victoria Falls Hotel, twenty minutes stroll from the mile-wide waterfall on the Zambesi river, base for optional activities. Days 8-10 Fly to Cape Town where you pick up your hire car and drive to the

Constantia Uitsig, a country lodge, outside the town. Visit Cape Town, Table Mountain and the Peninsula. Days 11-12 A day's guided tour of the Winelands, including visits to the Simonsig and Vergelegen Estates. Stay two nights at Rodeberg Lodge near Paarl. Days 13-15 A two-hour drive east to Ai Due Camini, a lovely old house overlooking Knysna Lagoon. See the spectacular coastal scenery and mountainous hinterland before flying back to London overnight.

**DATES OF DEPARTURES:** January 15-June 30, 1996. All safaris can cater for just one or two people and the dates are flexible. Some camps/hotels are seasonal. The price is £2,330, down from £2,590, including flights, accommodation, bed and breakfast, except at Musango where all safaris and meals are provided, wine tour and car hire. If you want to book today's holiday, taking advantage of our exclusive 10 per cent discount, call the brochure hotline on: 01604 31900

## HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win today's prize of a holiday to Africa, phone your answers to the two questions below on our competition hotline: 0891 40 50 34 before midnight tonight. Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times. The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

## THE QUESTIONS

1. Which is the oldest town in South Africa?
2. Beside which lake is Musango Camp?

**THE TIMES**  
Around the World in 80 Days £20,000 TOKEN 27

**AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS PRIZE DRAW ENTRY FORM**

I enclose 30 tokens from *The Times/Sunday Times* and wish to enter the prize draw. Send to: Around the World Prize Draw, PO Box 685, London E2 6SR. Closing date Friday January 12, 1996

Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms First Name  Surname

Address

Postcode

It would help us if you answered these four questions: (Please tick box)

1. Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

1) 15-24 ☐ 2) 25-34 ☐ 3) 35-44 ☐

4) 45-54 ☐ 5) 55-64 ☐ 6) 65+ ☐

2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-8 copies) during the week?

3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (2 copies or less) during the week?

4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

*Times Newspapers and its marketing partners would like to inform you of future products and offers. If you would prefer not to receive such information, please tick here.* ☐

IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW: WIN A HOLIDAY TO KENYA



... Plus, where to take the family for a weekend of activity or relaxation in beautiful English countryside

## A chance to tone up and wind down

If your idea of a relaxing weekend is staying at a smart hotel, catching up on books, eating and drinking to mild excess and then taking gentle walks, don't book into Foxhills. The country club near Ottershaw, Surrey, not far from where the M25 crosses the M3, could provide this if you choose. But this is more a place for energetic types, those who prefer the rapid route to working off Christmas.

Our "active break" was in mid-June, when the rhododendron bushes were in glorious purple bloom, and the golf course beyond the lawns looked invitingly lush. In a couple of days, determined to make the most of our stay, we went activity mad.

The children, aged 5 and 3,

The children had been looked after in the crèche, while my wife had had a supervised workout in the new health spa. As someone who enjoys the full ghoulishness of rowing machines and weights, she was a discriminating customer. Happy and dripping, she came out impressed by the fitness plan tailored for her.

Later the children swam with me in the indoor pool (two heart-stopping moments, as shallow suddenly becomes deep with little warning, and there was no life-guard). They went riding in the countryside, and both parents in a moment of eccentricity booked themselves in for "body exfoliation and lymph-drainage massage" in the bedroom before dinner, while the babysitter looked after the girls.

I have nothing against massage. But how can you tell, after being scraped all over by a mild kitchen scourer that a "fluid retention" has been reduced, and c) that your skin has been "refreshed"? And was it worth £27? Well, the aromatherapy oils were nice. My wife felt so relaxed that she could hardly rouse herself for dinner.

The food at Foxhills is good, the buffet on Sunday in the attractive manor especially luscious, with temptation beyond what should be allowed. Breakfast was in a restaurant with views over the golf course. Our middle-of-the-range rooms were spacious and comfortable; grander ones with sitting-room and gallery are luxurious.

We didn't get around to squash, archery, boules, billiards, steam rooms, sauna, other beauty treatments, or jazz, tap and modern dance classes (for adults or children), though my wife squeezed in a hi-tech step class. The staff, whether on the court, in the gym, or in the dining-room, were all first rate.

Relaxing? Extremely. I barely had time to read a word.

**TIMOTHY RICE**

● The author was a guest of Foxhills, Ottershaw, Surrey KT16 0EL (01832 872050). Active Break Weekends start from £260 per couple, including two nights half board and complimentary use of all facilities except beauty treatments. 18-hole golf and riding. Foxhills is booked up for Christmas, but there are children's seasonal celebrations on December 17.



Enjoy a weekend fling with prudence.

Right now Edinburgh's most lavish hotel, the 5-star Sheraton Grand, is making a rather tempting offer. You can stay three nights for the price of two, any weekend from Oct 14th to Dec 24th. That's only £136 per person sharing a room, including full breakfast. Edinburgh is fascinating. And we'll pamper you as only the 'Hotel of the Year' can.

To enjoy pure Scottish conviviality at our unashamedly modest price just now, telephone 0800 35 35 35 quoting ref. TT.

\* Subject to availability.

Sheraton Grand Hotel, 1 Festival Square, Edinburgh. EH3 9SR

## Hours of playtime on Broadway

From the top of Broadway Tower in the Cotswolds — built on a hill 1,025ft above sea level — you can see 12 counties on a clear day. So the guide books say. On a clear, frosty morning last winter I climbed, I looked and I saw. But nobody could tell me what I was seeing, and everyone I asked, from local shopkeepers to the tourist office, seemed baffled about why I should want to know the names of the 12 counties.

A relaxed atmosphere pervades Broadway and makes it an ideal escape from the hurly-burly of city life. Mellow stone houses dot the high street across an immaculate green. Most are 18th century, and many have leaded windows set off by aged topiary.

Plumb in the centre of the town is the Lygon Arms, which has been an inn for 400 years. It is a favourite with the Cheltenham Gold Cup race-going crowd. It is also the best place for a cosy winter weekend: grand-father clocks tick time away; log fires roar; and food, as opposed to cuisine, is served — sausages, rabbit with chestnut and brandy sauce, and proper puddings.

In the old days, an inn had to offer only decent stabling, good food, comfortable beds and welcoming log fires. Today, the Lygon Arms has yielded to the demands of fashion with a smart indoor swimming-pool and a large beauty area. "Relax while the Faradic pads simulate exercise," says the pamphlet in the beauty area — "especially effective



The 400-year-old Lygon Arms in Broadway offers cosy weekends, with its roaring log fires and good English food

on stomach and buttocks," and "The Hollywood facial for those with premature lines."

Children are welcomed to the Lygon Arms with open arms and a set of Body Shop soaps and bubbles with which to flood the bathroom. This is a good area for families, with scenic walks and cycling. To the right of the church, a track leads into

open countryside and hills in the distance — the Cotswold Way. This 100-mile walk, through some of the heart of England's most idyllic countryside, runs from Chipping Campden to Bath, and is a cheaper way to trim the fat than a trip to the Lygon Arms's beauty parlour.

Shopholes are served by the town itself, known as the Bond Street

of the Cotswolds: tasteful shops sell jewellery, silk clothes, ghastly gifts and delicious cream teas.

The Lygon Arms has a peaceful garden, offering a foretaste of some of England's most renowned gardens, which are a short and picturesque drive away for those who choose to stay in spring or summer. Snowhill, a mile away, is a pretty,

### Fact file

- The author was a guest of The Lygon Arms, Broadway, Worcestershire (01386 852255).
- A standard double room with ensuite bathroom costs £140 per night excluding VAT and including breakfast.
- A four-day Christmas programme beginning December 23, from £252 per person per day for a single room, includes morning tea, meals, entertainment and use of the Country Club.
- Broadway Tourist Office (01386 852 937)

almost cottage-style garden on a grand scale. Sezincote, near Moreton-in-Marsh, is a grander affair, with a water garden meandering down one side of a hill giving glorious views across the Cotswolds. Hidcote Manor, near Chipping Campden, is one of Britain's most famous gardens, created at the turn of the century by the Francophile American, Lawrence Johnston.

And those 12 counties to be seen from Broadway Tower? For the record, they are: Hereford and Worcester, Dyfed, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Shropshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Wiltshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Avon and Gwent.

JANE OWEN

## Oh, to stay in England

There is something satisfying about filling the boot of a car with suitcases, boots, and the rest of leisure's paraphernalia — then sweeping past the holiday-makers streaming into an airport.

While those who are convinced that relaxation can only be found beyond these shores were still waiting in the departure lounge, we were turning off the motorway and into an England which must still be one of the most beautiful, unspoilt and relaxing places in the world.

The Lords of the Manor Hotel, in the Cotswolds village of Upper Slaughter, is one of hundreds throughout Britain which were once grand country houses. Many, such as Lords of the Manor, are now run by people determined to re-create the grace of the past. And they are now appealing to the hedonism of those who are prepared to spend as much on pampering themselves over a long weekend as they would on a ten-day holiday in a Mediterranean, purpose-built resort.

But Upper Slaughter is middle England, cold in the early summer, uncomplicated, empty — and entralling. In the hotel there are deep-sea carpets, staff to take care



The 18th-century Hunstrete House set in 92 acres

of everything from parking the car to producing a delectable pre-dinner dry sherry in the bedroom, croquet and fine food. The fillet of turbot, for example, is alone reason enough to justify the hotel's Michelin star, three AA red rosettes and Good Food Guide prize for County Restaurant of the Year.

Lords of the Manor, with many other hotels in the Small Luxury Hotels of the World chain, offers "No Guilty Conscience" breaks, where guests are encouraged to "over-indulge, appear extravagant or eat and drink the 'wrong' things".

Weekend breaks cost from £80 a night per person and include à la carte dinner, English breakfast and VAT. For not much more you may be able to fly to Majorca for a week. I depend what you want. I know which I prefer.

So much so, that my wife and I repeated the experience, this time at Hunstrete House near Bath, one of the growing number of country-house hotels owned by the Arcadian group. The 18th-century house in 92 acres of deer park, woodland and gardens, which provide much of the produce used in the cooking, is elegant and welcoming.

Propped against the door as we arrived were a couple of bicycles. Neither of us had ridden for more years than we cared to remember, but down the cow-parsleyed lane we went. A pint in the pub a few miles away, and then back to wines of quality, dinner to satiate both gourmands and gourmet and the high, welcoming cotton-sheeted bed. A two-night break, including dinner, bed, breakfast, morning tea and newspapers, costs £185 per person.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

### English country hotel fact file

□ The author was a guest of both hotels. Lords of the Manor (01451 820243) has Christmas and New Year breaks ranging from £145 per person for two nights immediately before or after Christmas, to £525 for three nights in one of the best bedrooms and meals from Christmas Eve to Boxing Day. Midweek breaks from November 1 to April 1996 from £69.50 per night with à la carte dinner and breakfast.

□ Hunstrete House (01761 490490) charges £525 per person for the three-night Christmas break, with meals. One night on New Year's Eve costs £175 including dinner and breakfast. The Christmas break carries a £120 room supplement and New Year's Eve a supplement of £40 for single occupancy of a double or twin room.

### CHRISTMAS HOTEL TIPS

□ Oakley Court Hotel at Windsor (01753 609 988) will arrange Boxing Day boating down the Thames to Eton, as well as champagne, mince pies, a candlelit Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa Claus. *Michael Lewenthal writes.* Three-night packages with full board cost £345 per person.

□ Farm and Cottage Holidays (01237 479678) has Cornish cottages with wooden beams and log fires for the Christmas period. Retreats in quiet hamlets start at £241 per cottage for a week.

□ Grand Heritage Hotels (01737 376 177) is holding a German Beer Keller evening on Christmas Day at the Redworth Hall Hotel and Country Club in Co Durham, near Newcastle upon Tyne, and guided tours of the Ripley Castle Estate in York, five miles south of Harrogate. Full-board packages cost between £275 and £375 per person for four nights.

□ Nailcote Hall near Stratford, Warwickshire (0181-390 8513), hosts a Christmas murder-mystery package where guests piece together clues and solve the murder of Santa Claus. Prices start from £489 per person for a four-day half-board break and include briefings with former CID detectives.

□ Acorn Activities (01432 830083) offers an activity break from December 23-26 at Beacons Edge Country Inn on the Hereford/Wales border. £220 per person, including abseiling and white-water rafting. Acorn also offers three nights at Castle Pool Hotel, Hereford, from December 24-27. £375 per person, including a Murder Mystery Dinner and pony-trekking. Both breaks include Christmas lunch.

□ The Marine Highland Hotel at Troon, Ayrshire, is offering a Scottish Christmas with whisky tasting and a trip to the Ayr Races on Boxing Day. Three-night packages cost £285, per person with full board (Super-break Mini-Holidays: 01904 679999).

□ Ninety Travel Inns (reservations: 01882 414341) are offering special cut-price holiday rates at Christmas and the New Year. Each room, accommodating up to two adults and two children, costs £34.50 per night, excluding meals.

There will be more tips next week.

### British Midland Diamond Deals

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0345-554554

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Month ☐ Year ☐

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Month ☐ Year ☐

Age (yr)  11 0411

Thomas Cook Holidays



AUSTRALIA: A cruise on the highway through sandy scrublands and a dive to spectacular coral

## A thousand miles on the open road

MY WIFE and I, two late fortysomethings, are in Kalgoorlie as part of a year out to see more of Australia than the familiar Sydney-Barrier Reef-Ayers Rock package. We've bought a second-hand four-wheel-drive Toyota and caravan, but our route from Perth to Adelaide, known as crossing the Nullarbor, can be done leisurely in a week in a hired car or campervan.

It's a trip most Australians try to avoid. Several motorists claim to have seen UFOs, and truckdrivers have hallucinated at night. The Eyre Highway is widely seen as too far, too flat, too hot and, above all, too boring.

Yet it's an appealing "open road" adventure, recalling an era when long distance driving was more expedition than excursion. It follows much of the route pioneered by the explorer John Eyre in 1841 and reveals country and characters you don't find in the travel brochures.

On the road between Norseman and Balladonia, roughly the distance between London and Birmingham, we see only 30 other vehicles. The road slices through a forest of towering pink-and-silver gum trees leaving space only for a ribbon of vivid blue sky. After 50 miles the trees surrender to reveal an enormous sky and a far-distant horizon.

Balladonia, the first of 15 roadhouses as you head east, merits a significant dot on the map for a population of nine. It is a combined truckstop, bar, restaurant, motel and caravan park, the only buildings for 100 miles and not a place where you expect to be greeted by a flamboyant hostess who appears more in tune with Broadway than the Bush. Brenda Greening, who left Nottingham in 1974, has run the Balladonia Roadhouse for

the past five years. Wearing a black and white designer leisure suit and stylish white shoes, she is sitting on a bar stool mingling with a few truckdrivers and a shearer who has travelled from a farm 130 miles away for a drink. Their shorts, cutaway singlets and working boots suggest that they don't give a XXXX for Dior.

The road to Caiguna is one of the longest straight stretches in the world: it lasts for almost 100 miles.

The vast emptiness of the Australian interior is dramatically emphasised from the

of cormorants use an abandoned jetty as a grandstand to watch the ocean. Eucla, population 50, is paradise, apart from the March flies that buzz into life in midsummer. These green-bodied monsters attack in squadrons, delivering a sharp sting which has no after-effects, although it is unpleasant enough to deter any lingering.

Across the border in South Australia, the highway runs on a cliff-top following the Southern Ocean. Most drivers, eager to press on, ignore the gravel tracks that lead to the edge and miss the striking coastline of the Great Australian Bight. The jagged brown and white cliffs extending for 500 miles resemble enormous teeth marks, as if millions of years ago something actually bit huge chunks out of the state.

There are no surprises crossing the Nullarbor itself. For 20 miles, the highway runs across the southern tip of the notorious treeless plain — a grey-green flat scrubland where any bush more than 2ft high could be accused of showing off or suspected of having its own secret water supply. It's taken the Nullarbor millions of years to produce this sparse vegetation. What's here is probably the best it's going to get.

In summer the tail end of the highway turns into a wheat field 100 miles long, until the foothills of the Flinders Ranges and Port Augusta. South Australia's crossroads town, North to Darwin, east to Sydney, South to Adelaide, a long distance traveller's dormitory, a one-night-only place at the end of the only metalled road across the bottom half of Australia, the 1,000-mile Eyre Highway.

JOHN MCLEOD

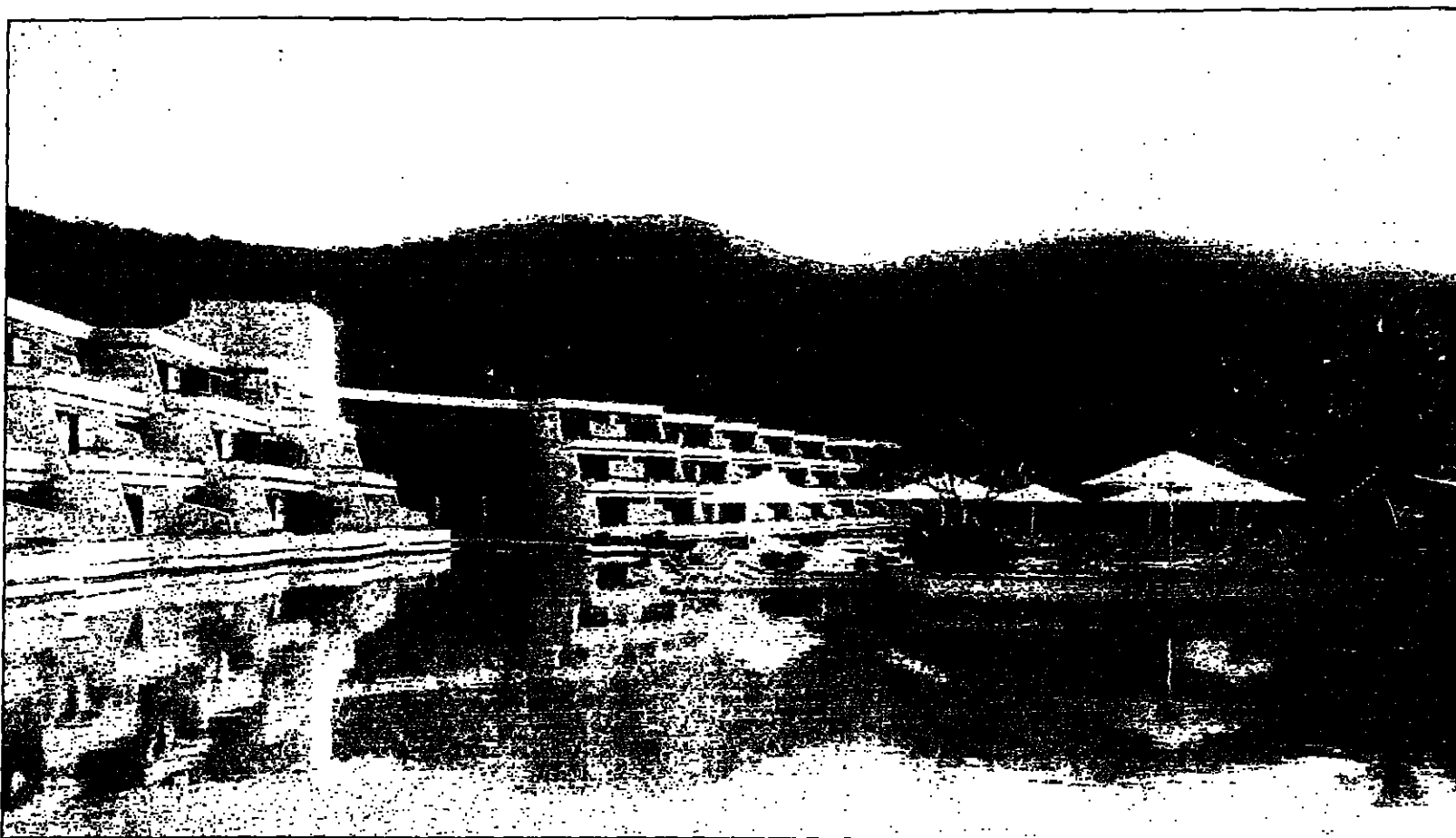
### Getting there

□ Campervan hire: Koola Rentals, Perth 00619 277 1000; Adelaide 00618 234 1462. Two-birth Toyota high-top from \$95 (£47) to \$135 a day, depending on season (no extra charge for one-way Perth to Adelaide rental). Budget Campervan Rentals, Perth 00619 479 1919; Adelaide 00618 234 4979. Four-birth Holden Rodeo from \$105 to \$120 a day (\$400 extra charge for one-way).

□ A motel double room costs from \$50-\$60, a powered site for a campervan \$16-\$20.

□ The Royal Automobile Club of Australia produces a detailed Eyre Highway map. Price \$3 available from RAC Touring, Perth 00619 421 4488.

□ Rainbow World of Choice (01904 628080) can arrange a trip from the UK, including flights and campervan hire, from £1,090.



The Hayman Island resort, with its luxurious waterside apartments set amid lush tropical vegetation, is a place of magic and fantasy

## Stirred on 007 island

James Bond would immediately recognise Hayman Island. It's the sort of luxurious tropical playground where he always ended up in the 007 films after being pursued by villains trying to throw him into lagoons stuffed with piranhas.

Hayman has lush, tropical vegetation and white sands; the same hint of shark in the turquoise seas; that almost unreal air of sumptuous hi-tech luxury and multimillion-dollar art collections amid the coral reefs; the flashy powerboats and seaplanes growing into the blue marina; the helicopters clattering overhead; the same cast of beefy young "gardeners" patrolling the grounds in their sinister, reflecting sunglasses.

There's even a private dining room with a 23-carat gold-leaf ceiling and a 16th-century chandelier. And when I flew in from the mainland my boarding card was numbered 007.

Bond, of course, would have been pursued all over the island by murderous heavies, poisonous snakes, man-eating spiders and girls. I did see a couple of snakes when I took a five-mile hike around the island, but they seemed lazy and harmless. I was pursued by nothing more dangerous than a pretty waitress with a smile as large as the vodka.

The resort is a place of magic and fantasy, and since it was renovated in 1987 at a cost of £150 million it has regularly been voted Australia's leading resort, and one of the world's top five.

Twenty miles off the coast of Queensland, Hayman is one of the 74 Whitsunday Islands scattered along the Great Barrier Reef, most of them uninhabited. Only three miles long by one mile wide, it has one 820ft hill, called Cook's Lookout after Captain James Cook, who sailed past on Whit Sunday in 1770.

The ambience is of unashamed luxury. The treatment starts as you step off the plane at the larger Hamilton Island and board the cruiser *Sun Goddess* for the 50-minute voyage to Hayman. I was greeted with champagne, and the dolphins skipped beside the boat to say hello.

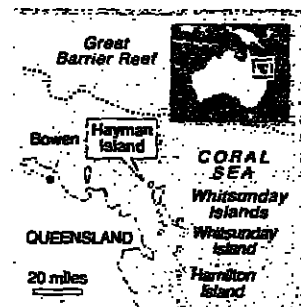
Staff outnumber guests at the resort; the 203 rooms and 11 penthouse suites are vast, with marble floors and glorious views across the Coral Sea. The public rooms have



Sleek cruisers, with waiters serving champagne, take guests for trips around the islands

### Getting there

□ Graham Lord flew to Hayman Island via Hong Kong and Sydney as a guest of Virgin Atlantic. Ansett Australia Airlines and Austravel (50 Conduit Street, London W1R 9EB (0171-838 1011), B&B on Hayman costs from £185 a room a night for one or two people to £1,400 a night for the French Provincial penthouse. Austravel offers a low-season seven-night Hayman package from £657 a person including flights and a stopover.



rich carpets, antiques, paintings, sculptures and tapestries, and are linked by shady walks past waterfalls, fountains and ponds with gliding swans and green-headed ducks. The ferny gardens, splashed with hibiscus and bougainvillea, respond to the cries of yellow cockatoos and laughing kookaburras.

There are six restaurants — French, Italian and oriental among them — and a nightclub, health centre, shopping arcade, tennis and squash courts, and a library. It also has three swimming pools, one a vast, linked waterway seven times the size of an Olympic pool.

You can enjoy every watersport, and chase wild goats through the bush, as I did, disturbing gaudy parrots, blue kingfishers and rainbow lorikeets, and sending up clouds of huge Blue Tiger butterflies. Even the temperature is perfect: an average 88F in summer (November-April) and 77F in winter, with cool island breezes.

There are more pleasures. I will never forget the two-hour

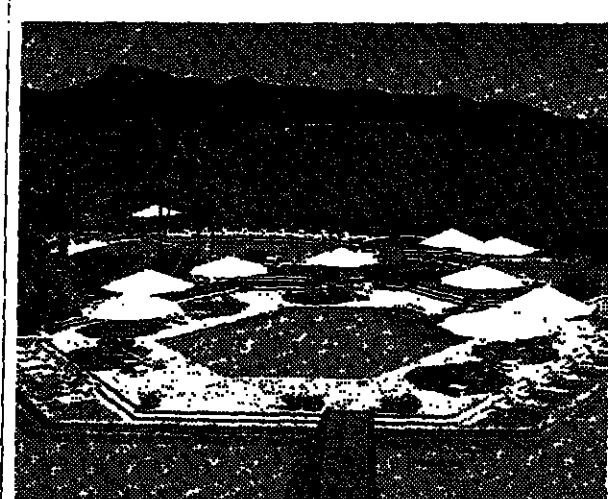
sunset cruise aboard the yacht *Serenade* (£35 each), when we sat in silence amid a string of lonely islands and sipped champagne as we watched the sun go down across the purple silhouette of Queensland.

Or the day we took an old De Havilland seaplane (£110 each) across the glittering sea to the Great Barrier Reef, where we snorkelled among the purple, red and yellow coral, underwater canyons and flitted with multicoloured fish — some silver-blue, some black and red, some blue with yellow tails.

On another day, we flew to Whitsunday Island (£75 each) and parked the seaplane among the stingrays basking in the shallows of Whitehaven Beach, the best beach I have ever seen. We swam, picnicked on seafood and chilled white wine and walked for miles on the deserted beach. I would not have been surprised to find a footprint belonging to a man called Friday.

Hayman and its sister islands are made for fantasy and romance. Newspapers in the 1930s reported several sightings off Hayman Island of a Loch Ness-type sea monster, an alarmingly revolting creature with small eyes, "a snake-like head... like a large turtle", and a "huge armoured" body. Bond would probably recognise that, too. It sounds just like Oddjob.

GRAHAM LORD



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## TRAVEL

19

ECUADOR: Sloths hang above tributaries of the Amazon and guides call shy alligators with a belch

## Sailing up the Aguarico in a wobbly canoe

Although it was a pioneering Ecuadorian, Francisco de Orellana, who was the first person known to have travelled the entire length of the Amazon River in 1541. Ecuador has ended up with just 2 per cent of the Amazon Basin — and not an inch of the great river proper. As our party boarded the bus at Lago Agrio, boom capital of Ecuador's rainforest eastern region, the Oriente, these statistics fed misgivings about our Amazon adventure. "Just how far can you venture into 2 per cent?" muttered a wannabe American explorer. "And how am I supposed to tell the folks back home that I only made it to a tributary of the Amazon, not the river itself?"

"Not even that," Carlos, our guide, corrected him. "The Aguarico River is a tributary of a tributary of the Amazon. But don't worry. We do tributaries differently here."

So they do. The moment our bus emerged from the trees alongside the rickety landing stage at Chiriza on the Aguarico, we were in the Amazon and even there, 400 miles from the great river, the café au lait expanse swirling past steaming backdrops of foliage knocked the Thames at Mortlake into a Panama hat.

From Chiriza, the only way onwards was by boat. For four hours, twin outboards swept us downstream. Intermittent thatched settlements soon gave way to an unbroken tangle of trees blanketing the river banks. Scarlet macaws launched themselves from the branches. We slowed to watch turtles dozing on beached logs. As a final bend in the river revealed our camp at Zancudo, the group breathed a collective sigh of relief and shifted sore buttocks. Two per cent would do just fine.

Ecuador's jungle tourism, concentrated mostly along the Napo River to the south, is minimal along the Aguarico. The Orellana — a riverboat hotel or "hotel" — and a few small-scale, low-impact thatched camps provide an ideal series of bases from which to explore the river and the surrounding rainforest of the 600,000-hectare Cuyabeno Reserve. The riverbanks are also home to scattered settlements of Shicoya and Cofan people, and the odd military outpost such as the one alongside our camp at Zancudo.

No sooner had we settled into our camp — a simple but well-maintained collection of



The rainforest, left, rewards the traveller with wonderful sights and sounds. Even in the Ecuadorian jungle, visitors may have to queue before they get the chance to travel upriver in tiny boats



wooden sleeping cabins complete with linen and mosquito nets, a shower block and dining room — than we headed for early beds, our energy sapped by the heat.

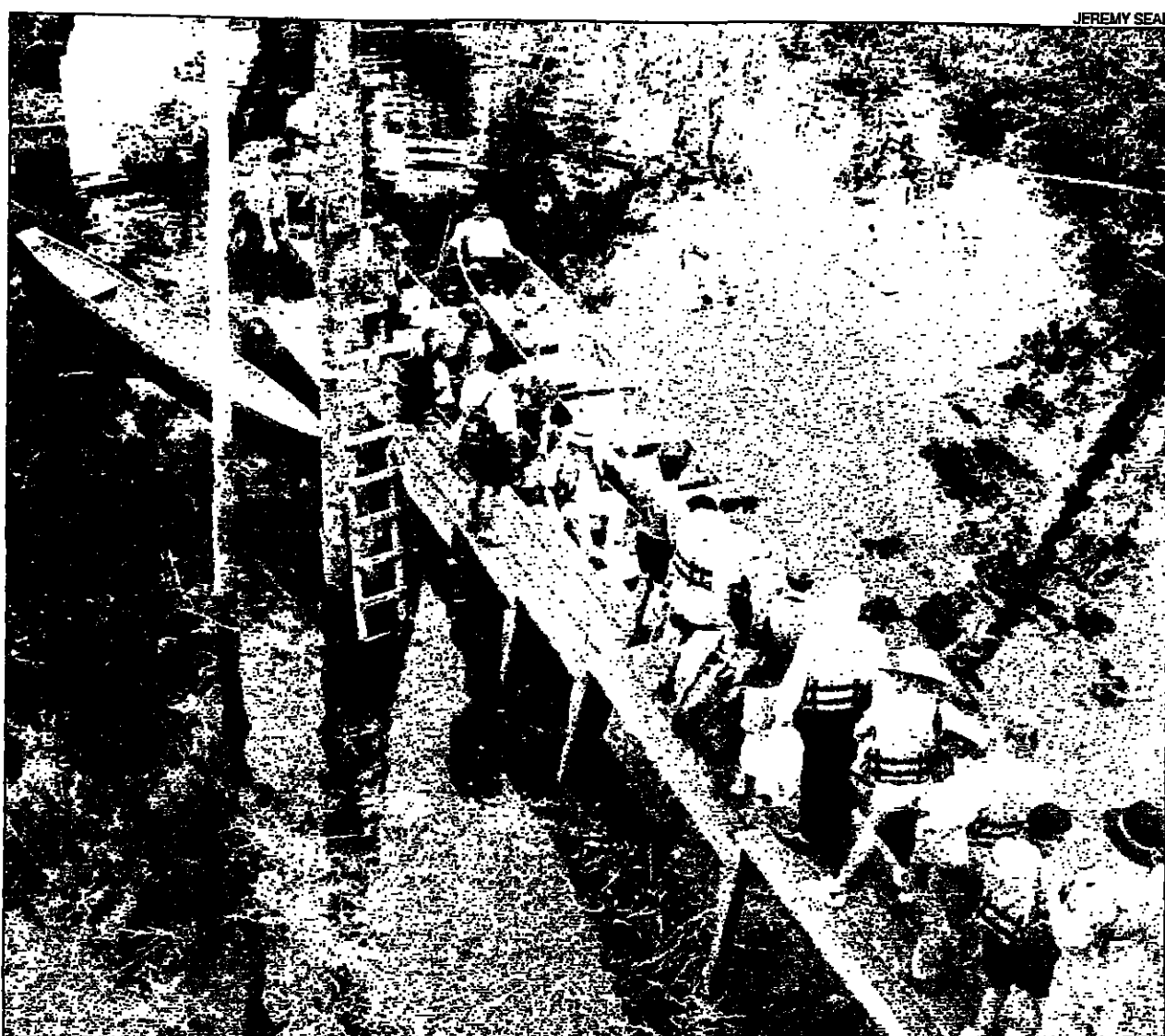
At first light, Carlos led us into the rainforest, a luxuriance of orchids, palms, ferns, and huge kapok trees with rocket-fan shaped buttresses. Peacock-blue butterflies as big as saucers glided past. Toucans were perched in the branches, along with tamarin and squirrel monkeys.

"Look at the tree roots," said Carlos. "If they cut down all this diversity, more than 250 species of trees in a single hectare, they cut it down forever. Oil and logging interests have long had designs on the area."

Our jungle walk also yielded tracks of rarely seen ocelots and of tapirs, a small, horse-cum-elephant creation straight out of Lewis Carroll. And then there was the insanely colourful array of birds — 600 species inhabit the area — as well as howler monkeys as we headed further downstream in motorised canoes.

We sailed into Lago Agrio to find Ecuadorian and Peruvian military posts glaring at each other across the river. We followed a tributary of the Amazon, where sloths inched their way through the branches above while unearthy river dolphins, pink like salmon, broke the surface.

As we crossed the lake to the remote Imuya Lodge, apprehension flickered across our



boatman's features. Carlos commented: "The 'islands' of vegetation that you see around you actually float. Locals regard the lake as haunted."

After supper, when we took the canoes out, floating islands were the least of our concern; we were in search of caimans. Carlos called for the alligators with a stifled belch, mimicking the cries of caimans in trouble. When a ten-foot monster appeared a few feet away, I wondered whether sitting in a wobbly canoe at night was a good idea. "No problem," whispered Carlos. "They are very shy." "But are they hungry?" came a voice from the darkness.

The great lesson of the rainforest — that it is essentially a benign and beautiful place rather than the infested swamp of popular imagination — impressed itself upon us. As we returned upriver, Carlos pointed out a pile of discarded steel pipes near Zancudo. Last year, local people, tour operators and even the military had joined forces to stop an oil company sinking a well here. "Tourism not only provides local people with work," explained Carlos. "It has also given them free access to our company doctor, helped them to pay for a teacher and supplied them with solar panels and outboards."

For the time being, sustainable tourism is keeping the oilmen and loggers at bay.

JEREMY SEAL



Riverside beauty: ibises

## Getting there

□ Jeremy Seal was a guest of Journey Latin America (0181-747 8315) and Avianca Airlines (0171-437 3664).

□ Journey Latin American offer Ecuadorian Amazon packages, including the six-day, full-board Aguarico tour, from £610.

□ Flote Orellana packages start at £466 a person for four days. Prices exclude flights from the UK, from £503 return.

□ Flight-inclusive packages can include five days on the Aguarico as part of a wider Ecuadorian tour alongside trips to the Andes and the Galapagos islands, starting at £2,375 for 24 days.

□ The Ecuadorian Amazon can be visited all year round. September to December are drier. June to August are wetter, but be ready for rain any time.

□ Guide book: *Ecuador and The Galapagos Islands* (Lonely Planet, £10.95).

## Highlights of Syria

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Compelling and starkly beautiful, Syria stretches along the Mediterranean Sea from Turkey to Lebanon and is backed in the North by the Jebel an-Nusariyah mountain range. To the south-east lies the desert — barren stretches of stony plains which are home to the Bedouins who graze their sheep there through the winter months. This 9 day tour reveals the highlights of Syria, beginning in Damascus — said to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. On to the beautiful oasis of Palmyra on the northern edge of the desert and then explore Aleppo, Syria's second city, with its maze of covered souqs. Finally, you journey along the south coast to the imposing fortress of Crac des Chevaliers, the headquarters for the Knights of St John.



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JEREMY SEAL

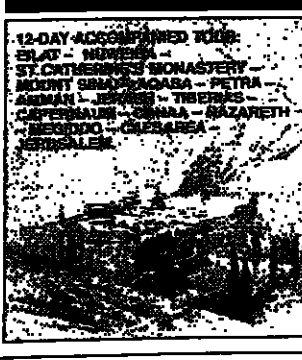
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Such an itinerary undertaken completely by coach would indeed be a



tiring experience. However, by dividing our time between touring and cruising, we are able to offer a more leisurely schedule. The seven day cruise aboard the first class MS Bousse offers a moving hotel and a most comfortable base. She will moor close to, and in some cases, in the centre of the cities and towns along the river.

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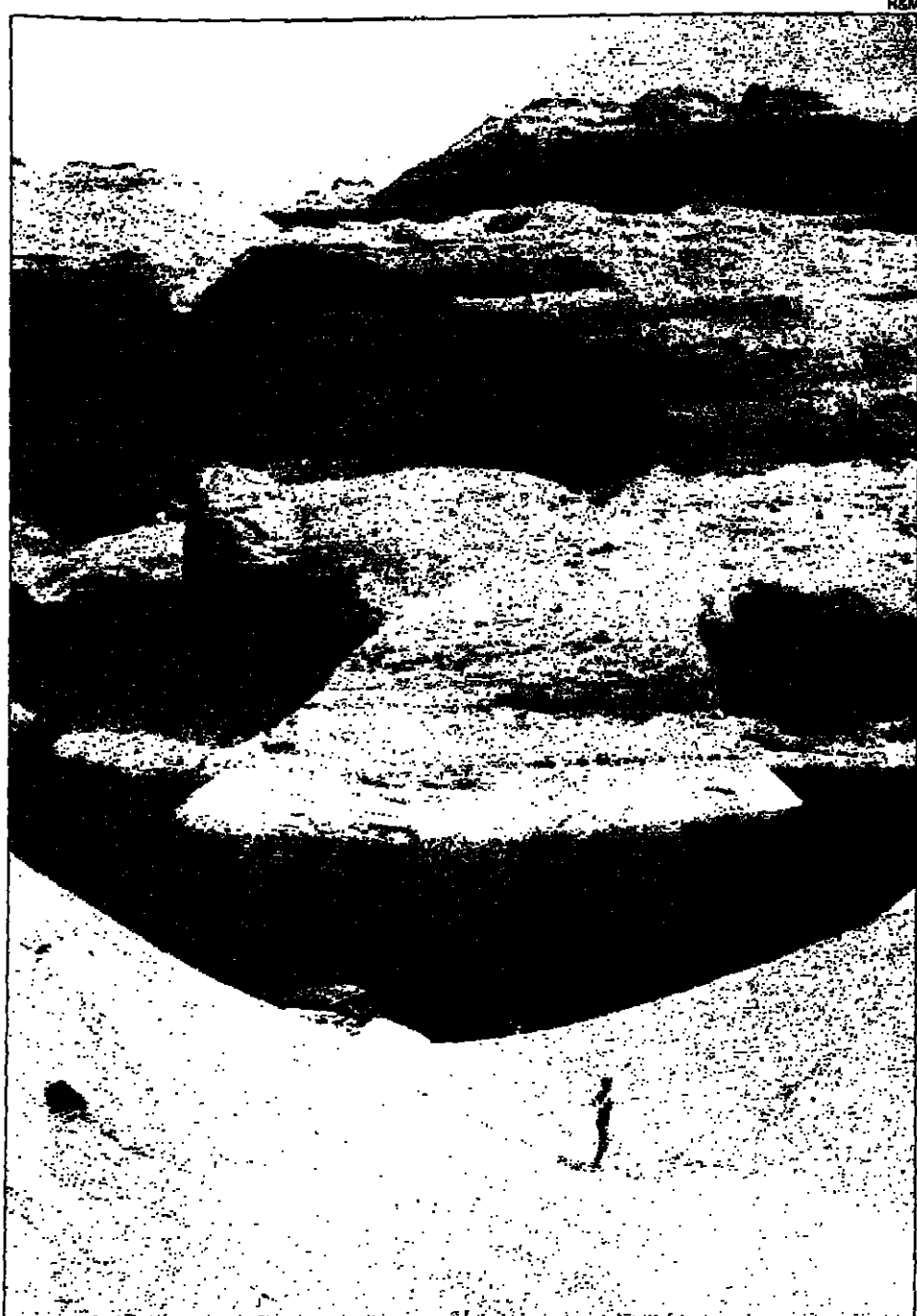
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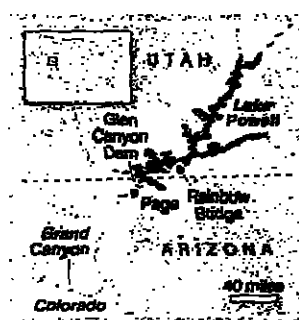


AMERICA: Martin Fletcher explores by boat the sandstone islands and dramatic canyons of Lake Powell



The Colorado River, which took 17 years to back up from the dam and form Lake Powell

## Sheer heaven at a lake made by man



In 1888 a US Army expedition ventured into the land of scorching desert and barren mountains where the Colorado River has gouged its way across the Utah-Arizona border. "Ours has been the first, and will probably be the last, party... to visit this profitless locality," wrote Lieutenant Joseph Ives, a member of the expedition. "It seems intended by nature that the Colorado River, along the greater portion of its lovely and majestic way, shall forever be unvisited and undisturbed."

Lieutenant Ives was spectacularly wrong. Man thwarted nature's plans. In 1963 the last of nearly five million cubic yards of concrete was poured, and the Glen Canyon Dam completed. Over the next 17 years, the waters of the Colorado River backed up 186 miles to form Lake Powell, America's second largest man-made lake, and one of the world's most sublime and



Americans enjoy taking luxurious boats out on to the relatively unvisited Lake Powell

scenic year-round playgrounds.

Here, sheer rock walls soar hundreds of vertical feet from the lake's glass-smooth surface. There, low islands of warm red sandstone slip gently into the deep blue waters. From what was once the Colorado's winding river-courses, branch watery side-canyons too numerous to count, some opening unexpectedly into great echoing amphitheatres of sculpted stone, while others taper into

twisting corridors so narrow that only the smallest boats can penetrate.

Lieutenant Ives was right about one thing. Though scarcely a half-day's drive from such tourist honeypots as Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon and the Bryce and Zion national parks, Lake Powell does remain relatively unvisited and undisturbed. It lies like a flooded Grand Canyon in the midst of a million acres of government-designated wilderness, and is virtually inaccessible by road.

It boasts 1,960 miles of labyrinthine shoreline, more than America's Pacific coast. The only way to explore it is by boat over several days, and during six years in America I have seldom enjoyed a more perfect escape.

You hire the boat from Page, a small town at the lake's southernmost tip, originally built for the dam's construction workers. The affluent take houseboats complete with microwaves, barbecues and roof-mounted water slides. The five of us took a modest 19ft powerboat into which we piled our camping gear one morning and sped off into an aquatic wild west.

We spent the next few sun-drenched days alternately bouncing our way across expanses of azure water or gently nosing into tranquil canyons bearing such exotic

names as Cascade, Dungeon or Lost Eden.

In one, the aptly named Forbidding Canyon, the water is spanned by the world's largest natural arch, the 290ft-high Rainbow Bridge, which the Navajo Indians call "Nonnezashi" — the "rainbow turned to stone" — and still consider sacred.

We dived endlessly into the deep, warm, pristine waters. We picnicked on hot, flat rocks with lizards the only life in sight. We towed our exhilarated children in our wake on an inflated tube. We fished for the abundant trout and bass and catfish, searched for petroglyphs on the rock faces and hiked along ancient Indian trails leading up into the desert.

In the evenings, drowsy from so much fresh air, we watched the sinking sun set the cliffs and buttes aglow, built a fire to cook on, then camped alone on sandy beaches beneath a brilliant galaxy of stars and listened to distant coyotes howling in the night.

Lake Powell enjoys sunshine for 78 per cent of the year, and between March and May the houseboat renters are guaranteed an extra day for every day that is not sunny, but you can occasionally get caught out. On our final afternoon, as we drifted slowly homewards, the horizon suddenly turned ink black, light-

### Getting there

□ Page is roughly 280 miles north of Phoenix, Arizona, and about the same distance eastwards from Las Vegas.

□ Boats and rooms at Wahweap Lodge can be reserved through Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas, PO Box 56909, Phoenix, Arizona 85079 (001 602 278 8888; fax 001 602 331 5358).

□ During the summer, houseboats begin at \$1,248 (£806) a week (excluding fuel and tax) and rise to \$3,495 for the most expensive, which sleep ten. During the winter, prices range from \$745 to \$2,079. Spring and autumn prices are somewhere in between, and three or four-day rentals are also possible.

□ A 19 ft powerboat costs \$1,125 a week during peak season, falling to \$675 in the winter. Jetis, wateris and inflated tubes can also be rented. Wahweap Lodge, located on the lake six miles outside Page, costs approximately \$120 a night for a double room.

ning rent the sky and banks of rain obscured the mighty Navajo mountain.

As this dramatic storm swept across the lake in all its elemental fury, we and a score of other small craft raced it back to Page, beating it by a whisker.

Such storms are the price of visiting in August, known locally as the monsoon season. Lake Powell never gets really cold, however. Spring and autumn are said to be particularly beautiful, and you can even take out boats at Christmas.

A few warnings. Reach Page the night before, check into the lakeside Wahweap Lodge, and complete all the paperwork for your boat that night because the queues can be lengthy in the morning. Buy your provisions before you leave because the lake's five scattered marinas stock only essentials. Be prepared to spend a lot on petrol — our boat consumed \$60 worth a day, and the bigger houseboats can do as little as one mile to the gallon.

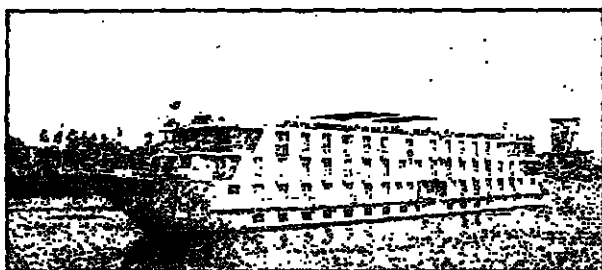
Finally, this being America, the motor rules supreme and there is hardly a sailing boat in sight. Indeed, the grander houseboats process up the lake towing a waterski boat, and often a couple of jetskis behind that.

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### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

CAPARISON

(b) Commonly (well not exactly commonly) used these days in the sense of a rather grand form of dress, or to dress someone up to the nines in their best soup-and-fish. Originally it just meant the covering for a horse. "You are indeed magnificently caparisoned tonight, Jane."

REBOANT

(d) Reverberating very loudly, from the Latin reboare I make the welkin resound and re-echo. "Children, pay attention please. Remember that this is an ancient and holy chapel of remembrance we are going into. When

we get inside, would you all please lower your voices to the reboant level?"

ASPIRATOR

(c) Medical instrument for drawing pus from abscesses. "I think it would be a nice gesture, dear, if we gave James an aspirator for Christmas."

MAMMIFEROUS

(a) With breasts. All mammals, male or female, but needless to say, most commonly applied in relation to the latter. As your taxi passes the YWCA, "Excuse me, Mama, but I think I have spotted some fine specimens of the mammifera." And seizing your butterfly net, you leap out, and send the taxi on with Mother.

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# TRAVEL

21

SKIING: Norway's uncrowded slopes and gentle runs are perfect for families

## Unhip, but perfectly cool

There is no worse time to look for a winter holiday than at Christmas. There is no resort anywhere in the Alps or North America not crammed to the rafters - none with guaranteed snowscapes at village level, and none where entire families can safely scour the slopes together.

There is one place, however, where the seasonal signs of green firs, Yuletide fires and rosy reindeers are unmarred by excessive crowds, and where the pistes are gentle enough for toddlers and grandparents to toboggan and ski together without fear of predatory swoops by boy racers: Norway.

It is exactly Norway's lack of appeal to the red-piste ravers, the glühwein gulpers and the budget groupies that makes its snow-sure, slow and traditional Nordic resorts ideal for a family escape. Norway is for giving the liver a rest and the legs a workout with cross-country skiing.

The arguments against are what keep most downhill skiers away. There are no vast interconnected ski arenas to compare with the Trois Vallées in France. There are no Farm Club discos to entice the Fergies. A small glass of beer at £3, a bottle of vin ordinaire at £18, are arguments enough for abstinence.

There are advantages, however: a six-day ski pass in Norway's most expensive resort, Hemsedal, costs £87, compared with £138 in Courchevel and £170 in Verbier. Christmas week at Norway's leading mountain hotel, the Dr Holmen in Geilo, costs £590, with half board and flights, from Crystal. A similar hotel in Val d'Isère for the same week costs more than £900 with Crystal.

Norwegian skiing is not high. The tops of Norwegian resorts are often below the level of the bottoms of French resorts. But, thanks to northern latitudes, the snow is of excellent quality, ample and early. Last winter, when the Alps were denuded until January, Norway was buried in snow. Skiing begins in mid-November and ends in May.

Despite the Winter Olympic runs in Lillehammer and a number of World Cup courses, Norway's challenge lies not in its black downhill pistes but in the classic Nordic disciplines of telemark and cross-country. The telemark style was invented by Sondre Norheim, who ascended the world back in



Despite the runs at Lillehammer, above, Norway's challenges lie in its telemark and cross-country disciplines

the 1860s with his flying leaps ending in the banded knee telemark turn.

Today, "freestyle" skiing, so called because the heel is not held down in the binding on telemark skis, is an avid cult in the Alps and America. Still, nobody does it better than the Norwegians, as they have demonstrated repeatedly in world championship events. And there is nowhere better to learn, especially as the standard of English in Norway, not to mention the genuinely welcoming attitude of instructors, is far superior to France or Italy.

Cross-country trails, free of charge, are everywhere. Headwater, a holiday firm specialising in cross-country skiing, recommends the three

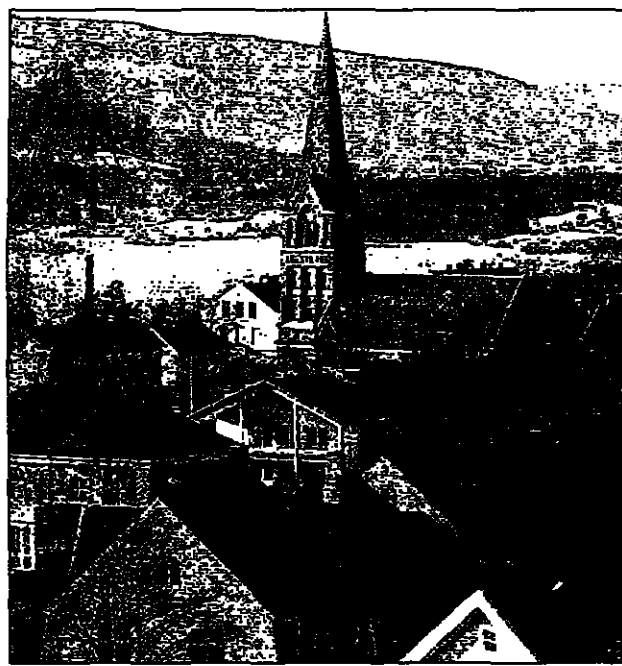
villages of Venabu, Stjøen and Nesbyen, which among them have more than 600 km of cross-country skiing in stunning terrain. Waymark, an even more adventurous Nordic specialist, offers courses in telemark skiing and a series of overland tours, staying in mountain huts.

Norway's best-known resort, Lillehammer, is not rated highly as a winter-holiday destination by British tour operators, despite its Olympic cachet. This is mainly because its skiing and self-catering flats are spread out over an intolerably inconvenient distance by Norwegian standards. A car is usually required.

Norwegians like lovely jumpers, reindeer rides, mid-night sleighs and trains. But they don't like cars and they have banned snowmobiles. Drinking, as everyone knows, occurs. But eating really is encouraged. Breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets groan with meats, fish and puddings such as sour cream waffles with gooseberry jam. Nobody goes hungry on half-board.

In any Norwegian resort queues, even at Christmas, are unheard of. Children, however, are conspicuous by their presence. Under-sevens always ski free, and are even given free helmets, which they must by law wear at all times on the pistes. Parents who have wondered just what it is that the Swiss do with their kids - as they certainly don't seem to go in for crèches - will find that playgrounds and child-minding facilities are ubiquitous by comparison in Norway.

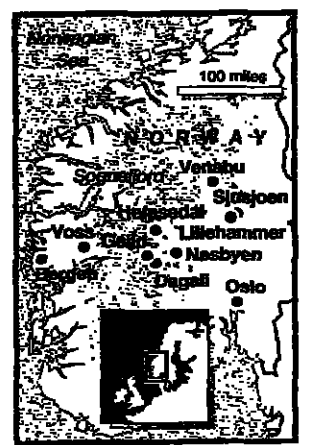
No one should go to Norway without seeing the fjords. Geilo (pronounced yea-low) is right on the banks of one. Geilo is the heart of what the Norwegians call "Winterland", and best for beginners and families looking for a high standard of accommodation. Hemsedal, just north of



Lillehammer: Olympic chalet but too spread out

Geilo, is the biggest and best resort for downhill, or alpine-style skiing and a popular snowboarding centre. Hemsedal has fairly challenging off-piste tree skiing too, and is the Norwegian resort which best approximates to the kind of good, groomed piste skiing that most British intermediates adore.

Hemsedal and Geilo are along the old-fashioned Flam Railway tour, which takes in



Europe's longest fiord, Sognefjord (200 km), and negotiates a vertical drop of 2,838 ft by means of spiral tunnels inside the mountains. Other diversions, in all Norwegian resorts, include driving husky-dog sledges and learning how to build igloos.

Voss, also alongside a fiord, and about an hour and a half from Bergen airport, is considered a bargain, and attracts what passes for the young and rowdy set in Norway. Although children under seven still ski for free, there are no special children's classes in the ski school.

If it seems like a long way to go to get away from the crowds and back to an earlier age of wood and wool, note that Crystal has introduced direct UK flights to Dagali airport in southern Norway, cutting down transfer times to Hemsedal to 90 minutes, (three and a half hours from Oslo) and to Geilo now only 30 minutes instead of three and a half hours.

DOUG SAGER

### Fact file

Crystal (0181-399 5144) is unique among mainstream operators in offering a wide range of hotel, flat and chalet accommodation in Voss, Geilo and Hemsedal. Hemsedal also has the first British-run chalet in Norway. Half-board hotel accommodation for seven nights with flights ranges from £349 to £649.

Headwater (01606 45609) is a cross-country specialist with experienced guides and package offers at one hotel only in three out-of-the-way Norwegian Nordic skiing centres. Prices with flights and full board from £618 to £786.

Waymark (01753 516477) offers the most comprehensive choice of non-traditional skiing holidays, with cross-country skiing in Finland, Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Italy and Spain as well as 11 resorts in Norway. Accommodation runs from "unsophisticated" to log cabins and high standard hotels. Telemark and cross-country lessons as well as overland tours around Troll mountain and the Jostedal summits are included in Waymark's programme. Prices for seven nights full board and flights range from £460 to £745.

The Norwegian Tourist Office has a ski hot line (0171-321 0666) with information on snow conditions, resorts and tour operators.

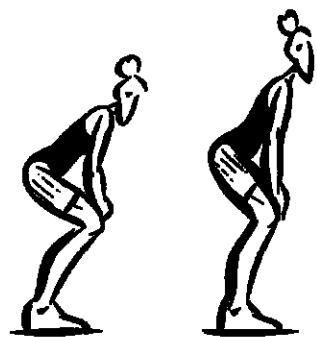
### PRE SKI

**STRENGTH (Quadriceps)**  
① Magal push: Lie back, resting weight on your elbows, curl the back pushing the pelvis under and contracting the abdomen. Flex both feet, draw knees toward chest, imagining you are absorbing a magal.



Then, extend the legs towards ceiling, as if in the valley beyond magal.

② Downhill squats: Stand with feet shoulder width apart, feet turned inward, knees and hips, rest hands on thighs. Slowly extend at both knees and hips until arms are almost straight. Repeat 20 times.



Exercises extracted from *Skilegs* by Tessa Coker, from the Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AF, £2.50 inc p&p. The Times cannot be held responsible for any injuries resulting from or sustained while carrying out the exercises and movements described above.

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## GAMES

25

## CHESS

by Raymond Keene

SINCE 1886, each of the 13 World Champions has pushed forward the boundaries of chess knowledge, science and art, and has reflected the intellectual ethos of his day. Steinitz, the first, was a contemporary of Darwin and Marx, and like them he tried to impose a rigid theory. Lasker, the second, was active in the early 20th century, at a time of world conflict. He was a philosopher who, appropriately, developed an entire intellectual programme based on the struggle.

One of the best ways to improve your chess is to adopt a hero, then follow and study that player's games closely. What better heroes to adopt than the World Champions themselves?

Garry Kasparov has often stated that Alexander Alekhine, who held sway from 1927 until 1946, is his chess hero. The influence is clear. Both love combinations and the attack, though in 1927, when Alekhine had to face the virtually invincible Capablanca for the world championship, he curbed his natural predilections to become a super-strategist. Kasparov had to learn the same lesson when struggling against Karpov six decades later.

This game shows Alekhine's shock tactics, which bowled over so many unsuspecting opponents. It also reveals his main weakness, an overweening impatience which sometimes seduced him into unsound adventures. My notes are based on those of Alekhine himself who, with characteristic honesty, pointed out that on move 6 Black could virtually have refuted White's conception.

**White: Alexander Alekhine**  
**Black: Max Euwe**  
**Haarlem 1937**  
**Queen's Gambit Slav Defence**

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6  
3 Nc3 dxc4 4 e4 e5  
5 Bxc4

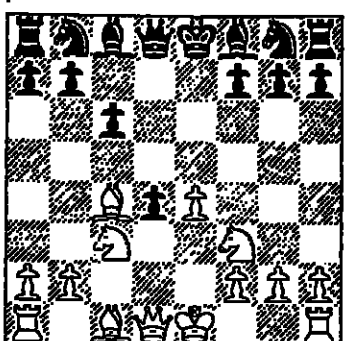
This sacrificial combination is certainly very tempting and, especially over the board, extremely difficult to refute.

5... exd4 6 Nf3. Presenting

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1... Rxe2+

Black with a difficult practical problem.



6... b5. The main variation Alekhine had in mind was 6... dxc3 7 Bx7+ Ke7 8 Qb3 Nf6 9 e5 Ne4 10 0-0. But instead of 8... Nf6 Black should play 8... cxb2 9 Bxb2 Qb6 10 Bxg8 Rg8 11 Qxg8 Qb4+ 12 Nd2 Qxb2 after which his middlegame chances, in spite of the approximate equality of forces, are higher than White's remaining possibilities of a direct attack.

7... Nb5. Dr Euwe admitted simply overlooking this move. The knight obviously cannot be taken because of 8 Bc5 winning material.

7... Ba6 8 Qb3. An important move with three objectives: to protect the king's bishop, to prevent a black check at b4 and to strengthen the pressure against f7.

8... Qe7 9 0-0 Bxb5  
10 Bxb5 Nb5 11 Bc4 Nb7  
12 Rxd4 Rb8 13 Qc2 Qc5

Hereafter, White has to avoid only a few traps in order to win.

14 Nf5 Ne5 15 Bf4 Nf5  
16 Bx7+

A startling but ultimately profitable continuation, which nets White a material advantage.

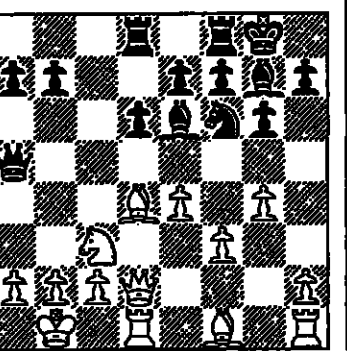
16... Kxf7 17 Qxc5 Bxc5  
18 Bxc5 Rb5 19 Bc5 Bb6  
20 b4

And now the rook is in danger. Black cannot avoid material loss.

20... Rb8 21 Rad1 c5  
22 bxc5 Bxc5 23 Rd5

Black resigns.

Last week's winners: R Hulley, Croydon, Surrey; D Timbrell, Chingford, Essex; G H Tebble, Horstead, Norfolk.



## PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption 81, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, November 8.



"Very nice, but I'll have a box of tissues instead, please."

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Mr L. Day of Lydd-on-Sea, Kent

## COMPUTER GAMES

IT IS not only soldiers with the British Army who can play military manoeuvres in the beautiful surroundings of the Brecon Beacons in Wales. With US Gold's *Terminal Velocity* you, too, can wreak havoc in stunning settings with an uncanny resemblance to the breathtaking Brecons.

This airborne shoot-'em-up sees you climbing, swooping and thrusting your way in a fighter jet through a mountainous 3D environment, destroying all in your path. Targets range from towering concrete constructions to trickier moving bull's-eyes, enemy jets, tanks and amphibious craft.

If you can navigate your way into the awkward openings, there is also a network of underground tunnels to find. Hitting the right spots above or below ground offers rewards to keep you alive, such as power-packs, deadlier weapons and "afterburn" jets. The afterburn boosters allow you to flee rapidly, albeit nauseously, any danger zone.

Straightforward but satisfying, with no need to master complex flight-sim technicalities beforehand, *Terminal Velocity* is the perfect, mindless blast-up to relieve



Terminal Velocity: 3D scenery

the tensions of a gruelling day. It is harmless enough, yet hits the spot perfectly.

The game seems like a progression of the engaging two-dimensional, vertically scrolling shoot-'em-up, *Raptor*. Adding further to speculation that the two titles might be related, a Shareware version of *Raptor* is included on the CD-Rom.

There are also similarities between *Terminal Velocity* and *Griffin Interactive's Slipstream 5000*. This airborne racing game is also set in 3D milieux — including courses in London, the Grand Canyon, the Black Forest and

Tokyo — but, unlike *Terminal Velocity*, it handles haphazardly. This is the last call for *Cyberspace Eighteen*, which closes at midnight on Tuesday. The main prize is a £200 portable electronic Philips "Routefinder" which, through on-screen instructions, guides you economically around Britain.

In addition to the Routefinder, our winner and five runners-up will receive *Micro Machines '96* for the Sega Mega Drive. This is Codemasters' latest incarnation of its pedigree racing game.

To enter, nominate a well-known person whom you believe to be in urgent need of a Routefinder, and explain your reasons. *Cyberspace Eighteen* is open to all ages, and you can enter as many times as you like. Send your entries, which must be legible and include your name, age, address and telephone number, to: *Cyberspace Eighteen*, Computer Games, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You can also fax entries on 0171-729 6791. The judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

TIM WAPSHOTT

## BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

AS YOU probably know, when the opponents have five trumps between them, a 3-2 break is more likely than a 4-1 break. For most practical purposes that knowledge is sufficient, although occasionally the fact that the 3-2 break is 68 per cent and the 4-1 break 28 per cent may have a bearing on the play of the hand. So how do you handle the trumps on these two hands?

Dealer North East-West Vul IMP's

A106			
774			
876			
KQ54			
N			
W			
E			
S			
KQ954			
A3			
Q3			
AJ92			

W	N	E	S
—	Pass	2V(1)	2s
Pass	3s	Pass	4s
All Pass			

Contract: Four Spades by South

Lead: Jack of hearts

(1) Weak Two (six-card suit)

East plays the queen on the first heart and you duck. East continues with the king of hearts, and you win with West following. All follow to the king of spades, and West plays small on the second spade. Do you play the ten or the ace?

This is the second hand:

Dealer North East-West Vul IMP's

Q2			
AKJ543			
Q2			
Q95			
N			
W			
E			
S			
KJ9874			
V2			
AKJ8			
63			

W	N	E	S
—	1V	2s	2s
Pass	3V	Pass	3s
Pass	4s	All Pass	—

Contract: Four Spades by South

Lead: King of clubs

When the king of clubs holds, West continues with another club; you play low from dummy and East wins with the ten. East switches to the four of diamonds. You win in hand and play a spade to the queen, which holds. You play another spade and East follows small. How do you continue?

The full deal for the first hand is shown at the top of the next column. The Canadian Joe Silver was the declarer. In the clash between Canada and South Africa in the round-robin phase of the Bermuda Bowl a month ago, both teams qualified for the second phase, and Canada went on to the final, where they lost to USA 11.

The first good thing Silver did was to duck the opening heart. He felt that East would have opened

A106			
774			
876			
KQ54			
N			
W			
E			
S			
KQ954			
A3			
Q3			
AJ92			

Three Hearts with a seven-card suit, and he wanted to see what East (Henry Mansell) would do if left on lead.

When East continued hearts Silver took the view he could not have a singleton in either minor — otherwise he would have shifted to that suit. So with six hearts and length in both minors the chance of East holding a singleton spade was increased. Whether it increases by enough to make it correct to finesse in spades I don't know, but Silver was sufficiently convinced to put in the ten of spades on the second round. Alan Truscott described the play in the bulletin as "a golden thought by Silver". At every other table where the contract was Four Spades it went off.

The second hand was played in the round-robin match between USA 1 and France. France got to the semi-final, where they were beaten by the other American team. Jimmy Cayne was the declarer, with Chemla West and Perron East. This was the full deal:

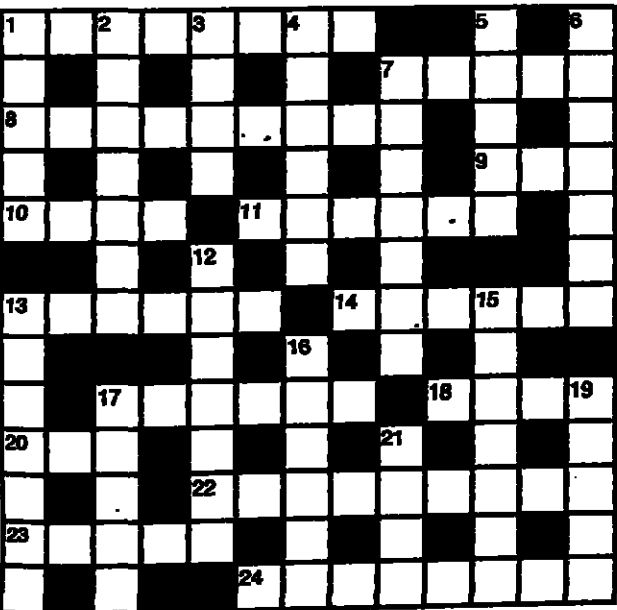
Q2			
AKJ543			
Q2			
Q95			
N			
W			
E			
S			
KJ9874			
V2			
AKJ8			
63			

When East played low on the second spade, Cayne finessed the seven. When that held he was home. But why did Cayne play East for four spades to the ace-ten? The key was the fact that Perron did not lead a third club. Perron knew that Cayne would discover the trump position when Chemla was unable to overruff — so he didn't lead a club. But Cayne could also see that that must have been the reason for Perron's failure to lead a third club. That placed the trumps with East.

East should have played a club anyway. A good declarer is always going to draw the correct inference if he fails to do so. If West's singleton spade is the nine, playing a third club will promote a trump trick. But if East exits with a diamond, West's nine of spades will fall under the queen and the declarer may well finesse the eight on the second round.

## THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3330: Key Numbers by Le Gallois



No 618

- ACROSS**
- 1 Glimpse, view (of quarry) (8)
  - 7 Stage work (5)
  - 8 Dungeon one is dropped in (9)
  - 9 Position; fib (3)
  - 10 Realise; bit of tree (4)
  - 11 Walt —, animator (6)
  - 13 Throat (6)
  - 14 Support, esp. for body weight (6)
  - 17 Bruno —, conductor (6)
  - 18 Cut; bargain (4)
  - 20 Standard; equality (3)
  - 22 Left-winger (9)
  - 23 Tsar's edict (5)
  - 24 (Bridge) player of contract (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 Sir 17ac —, novelist (5)
  - 2 An archangel; 17ac —, old Archers character (7)
  - 3 Endpiece; follow (4)
  - 4 Stupid person (6)
  - 5 Another stupid person (5)
  - 6 Sir 17ac —, explorer (7)
  - 7 House of head of cathedral (7)
  - 12 One living in solitude (7)
  - 13 17ac —, 20C architect (7)
  - 15 More tasty; Moroccan port (7)
  - 16 Pull from danger (6)
  - 17 Inflict, do (damage, harm) (5)
  - 19 Father (arch.); 17ac —, 19C essayist (5)
  - 21 Snout's loam and rough-cast role (MND) (4)

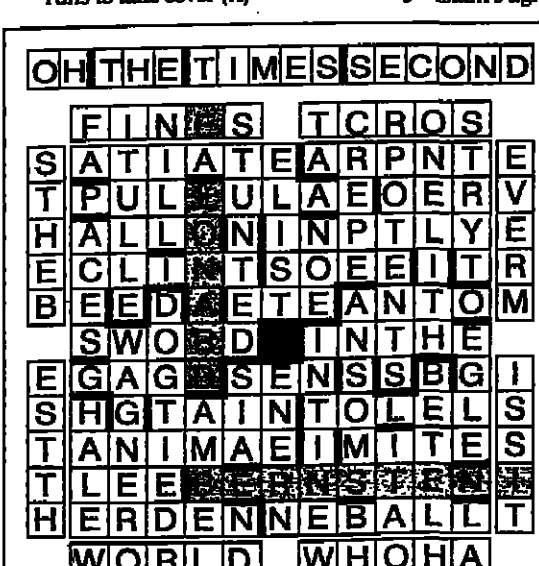
**SOLUTION TO NO 617**

**ACROSS:** 1 Mica 5 Cubic 8 Baize 9 Whamot  
10 Disbement 12 Cubism 14 Octavo 17 Identifiable  
21 Unwells 22 Flumb 23 Allah 24 Slender

**DOWN:** 1 Moby-Dick 2 Swiss 3 Ageless 4 Townee  
5 Charm 6 Bonanza 7 Cats 11 November 13 Bedevil  
15 Cripple 16 Misses 18 Neigh 19 Bound 20 Cuba

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- CLUES** are normal but nearly half the lights (24) are to be coded before entry on a numerical basis (A=1, 27 etc) initiated by a simple trigger. Chambers (1993) doesn't include the answer to 24d (an obsolete form of a common word, to be found in the OED) or 42a (in Collins), but is otherwise recommended.
- ACROSS**
- 1 Music producer old misery largely confronting a dog (9)
  - 7 Fiddle with lines to hoodwink (4)
  - 10 Forward publicity for Rana's relative (4)
  - 12 Almost complete and explosive charge of thunder (7)
  - 13 Cycle race is cut short by this oak (6)
  - 14 All chromosomes play in old bud (5)
  - 15 It's indecent to live endlessly in retirement (4)
  - 16 Shoot judge pursuing favourite shock treatment (6)
  - 17 Accented (loosely) name in diary (4)
  - 19 Cleric in great dispute (4)
  - 20 Flat in the country oddly in full use (4)
  - 22 Student to take in police as figured (8)
  - 23 Writer losing head about commercial design (4)
  - 25 Stands with divisions but runs to take cover (11)
- DOWN**
- 1 Crook to take into main dealer (9)
  - 2 Air passage in a restricted area (4)
  - 3 Craving kicked in a manner of speaking (4)
  - 4 Counter chatter, "butter's salt" (7)
  - 5 Islam's agitation for Indian workers (5)
  - 6 Stop king supporting Homer (4)
  - 7 Music maker's arrangement for Peking cellos (12)
  - 8 Standard Scott novel without Greenheart for example (5)
  - 9 Take off fast finally after runner (4)
  - 11 Girls come to South Africa in expectation of simple form of life (12)
  - 12 Outdated club pursues deceptive harmony (11)
  - 18 Sea monster's beat off Mediterranean island (4)
  - 20 Coat only half a flap (3)
  - 21 A couple of girls reportedly fabricating material (9)
  - 24 Follow up on English welfare which is outdated (4)
  - 26 Pursue faint heart (3)
  - 27 Designs to offend historic village (7)
  - 30 Friends popping up to take shift (5)
  - 31 Nut in Nice rising to one who did not turn (5)
  - 33 A little lark, say, ascending (4)
  - 34 Scots delivered the French town (4)
  - 35 Showing surprise about Henry's fat? (4)
  - 36 Principle of primogeniture in regular division of tribe (4)



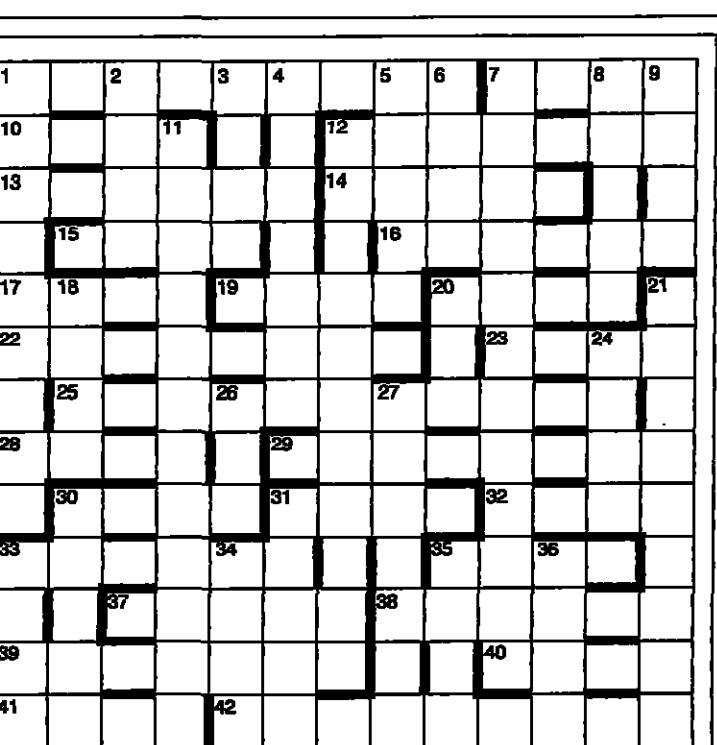
**Solution and notes**  
to No. 3327 "Conversation Piece" by Hysterix

**CONVERSATION PIECE — "Oh, THE TIMES,"** he says in a mocking English accent. "Second-finest crossword in the world." "Who has the best?" "THE LISTENER," Bernstein replies. "Never miss it."

Extract from "The day I met ... Leonard Bernstein" by Richard Morrison, Arts Editor. Published in *The Times*, December 28 1994

The winner is A.R. King of Standlake, Witney, Oxfordshire.

The runners-up are A.K. Jobbings of Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire and D. Rainford of Leeds.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3330

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